NATION

Toll rises to 8 in Lucknow building collapse, 28 injured

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BUSINESS

GST Council to discuss insurance premium tax cuts

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SPORTS

England all-rounder Ali retires from int'l cricket

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SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

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India ends historic Paralympics with 29 medals

PARIS, 8 SEPT

Differently-abled but exceptionally resolute, India's para-athletes would look back at their Paralympics campaign with pride as most of the established names lived up to expectations and many talented greenhorns made the big stage their own in a record-smashing medal haul of 29.

Seven of these 29 medals are gold, which is another first for the country that started to make its presence felt only in the 2016 edition, where it won four medals.

Preethi Pal winning a bronze in the women's 100m T35 and 200m T35 class. T35 classification is meant for athletes who have coordination impairments such as hypertonia, ataxia and athetosis. Another first ever medal came via Kapil Parmar in Judo. Armless archer Sheetal Devi, who was born without arms, was already a beacon of hope to millions but with her mixed team bronze, the 17-year-old gave her community another reason to never give up. Days later, Harvinder bagged first ever gold for India in archery. In the club throw event, Dharambir and Pranav Soorma ended up on the podium in the F51 class.

Sumit Antil, whose left leg was amputated after an accident, broke his own Paralympic record for a second successive javelin gold while wheelchair-bound rifle shooter Avani Lekhara dominated the field in the air rifle SH1 final. A gold also came from the badminton court via Kumar Nitesh who pipped Britain's Daniel Bethell. *—PTI*

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INDIA'S VICTORY

Final Ranking	18
Gold	7
Silver	9
Bronze	13
Total Medals	29

India finishes 18th with seven gold medals ***PHOTO: PTI***

Rajnath Singh urges PoK residents to join India

During rally, he said youths carry laptops instead of pistols

JAMMU, 8 SEPT

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday asked the residents of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) to come and join India as "we consider you our own unlike Pakistan which treats you as foreigners".

Addressing an election rally in Ramban assembly constituency in support of BJP candidate Rakesh Singh Thakur, the Union minister asserted there is a sea change in the overall security situation in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

Rajnath Singh ***PHOTO: PTI***

The senior BJP leader came down heavily on National Conference-Congress alliance over its poll promise of restoring Article 370 and said it is impossible as long as BJP is there.

He said the "sea change" witnessed in the overall security situation in J-K since August 2019 means that youths now carry laptops and computers in their hands instead of pistols and revolvers.

Now, nobody dares to fire bullets at people in Srinagar, he said.

"Support the BJP to form the next government in J&K so that we can facilitate massive development in the region. There will be so much development that the people in PoK on seeing this should say that we do not want to live with Pakistan and instead will go to India," the defence minister said. He said that recently an affidavit was filed by Pakistan's additional solicitor general in the neighboring country stating that PoK is a foreign land.

His visit comes a day after Home Minister Amit Shah's two-day tour during which he released the party's manifesto, held a series of meetings with senior party leaders and also addressed a party workers' rally. He said the party wants safe return and rehabilitation of Kashmir migrant pandits and turning J&K into a modern state of the country. *—PTI*

AMID VIOLENCE

Biren says Centre must protect Manipur's integrity

IMPHAL, 8 SEPT

Amid a fresh bout of violence in Manipur, Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Sunday appealed to the Centre to take steps to protect territorial integrity of the state, according to an official.

Singh also urged the central government not to give in to the demand for a separate administration raised by Kuki Zo groups, said the official on condition of anonymity.

Singh made these appeals in a memorandum submitted to Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya when he, along with a number of MLAs and the assembly Speaker, called on him at Raj Bhavan and held a meeting.

In the memorandum to Acharya, Singh said the Centre should ensure peace in Manipur and give adequate power to the elected state government, according to the official. Singh also called for revoking the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement.

The pact was signed by the Centre, the Manipur government and two conglomerates of Kuki militant outfits – Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and United People's Front (UPF). The pact was signed in 2008 and extended periodically thereafter. *—PTI*

N Biren Singh ***PHOTO: PTI***

Security increased amid rise in attacks

Security was heightened in Manipur on Sunday following the fresh bout of violence that left several people dead, officials said. The situation was tense but under control, they said. The Assam Rifles has deployed anti-drone systems in the fringe areas of the Imphal Valley to repel any "rogue drones", he said. The CRPF handed an anti-drone system to the state police for deployment, he added. *—PTI*

EAM in Saudi for India-GCC foreign ministers' meet

RIYADH, 8 SEPT

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar arrived here in the Saudi capital on Sunday on a two-day visit to attend the first India-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers' meeting. Jaishankar is on the first leg of his three-nation tour that will also take him to Germany and Switzerland. He visited Saudi National Museum and King Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archives in Riyadh. In Riyadh, Jaishankar is also expected to hold bilateral meetings with foreign ministers of several GCC member countries. *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 3

TMC MP quits over RG Kar doctor's rape and murder

KOLKATA, 8 SEPT

TMC MP Jawhar Sircar on Sunday wrote to West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, and said he has decided to quit Rajya Sabha and leave politics altogether, describing the steps taken by the state government in handling the rape and murder of the doctor at RG Kar hospital "too little and quite late". In the letter, Sircar said he became increasingly "disillusioned" with the state government as it seemed "quite unconcerned" about corruption and "strong-arm tactics" of a section of leaders. *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 3

B'luru achieves 40% reduction in PM10 pollution

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

The State's capital Bengaluru has become the first City to achieve more than 20-30 per cent reduction in PM10 pollution. It is to mention here that Bengalaluru is among the other cities like Khanna, Durgapur, Kurnool, Dera Baba Nanak, Vadodara, Allahabad, Asansol, Hyderabad, Gorakhpur, Ranchi, Akola, Ananthapur, Durg Bhilainagar, Surat and Noida recorded a 20-30 per cent reduction in PM10 levels during the 2017-18 period, the Central Pollution Control Board data showed. Ninety-five of the 131 cities covered under the National Clean Air Programme have shown an improvement i with 21 reducing pollution by more than 40 per cent compared to 2017-18 levels, CPCB data shows. *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 2

ST MARY'S FEAST

Devotees take part in a procession at St Mary's Basilica on the last day of St Mary's feast at Shivajinagar in Bengaluru on Sunday ***PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD***

BJP GAGS BRIJ ON SPEAKING AGAINST WRESTLERS

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

BJP in Haryana are in damage control ahead of State Assembly polls as the high commander has suggested the former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh not rake up any controversy with comments at Wrestlers, said sources.

Referring to Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia he said Congress had hatched conspiracy against him . He said that the duo were used like pawns by Bhupinder Hooda and Congress to hatch conspiracy and get hold of the WFI and to attack BJP's ideology and they(Congress) keep doing these things. *—Agencies*

>>>More on Page 3

AT AGE 26

SABALENKA WINS HER 1ST US OPEN

Aryna Sabalenka, the No. 2 seed, got past No. 6 Jessica Pegula 7-5, 7-5 in a rollicking final under a closed retractable roof at Arthur Ashe Stadium in US to clinch her third Grand Slam title on Sunday

6	88	46	6/15
Aces	Points won	Service points won	Break points

@USOPEN

>>>More on Page 8

India sees 1st suspected mpox case, govt says all okay

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

A man who recently travelled from a country experiencing mpox transmission has been identified as a suspected case of the disease, the Union health ministry said on Sunday. The patient has been isolated at a designated hospital and is currently stable, it said, adding that there is no cause for concern. Samples have been collected from the man and are being tested to confirm the presence of mpox.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared mpox a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) for the second time last month in view of its prevalence and spread across many parts of Africa.

The number of mpox cases reported so far exceeded last year's total, with more than 15,600 cases and 537 deaths. According to officials, mpox infections are generally self-limiting lasting between two and four weeks. *—PTI*

Uttarakhand villages install boards banning outsiders

RUDRAPRAYAG, 8 SEPT

Villagers in several areas of Uttarakhand's Rudraprayag district have put up signboards at the entrances of their villages, prohibiting the entry of outsiders.

Initially, the boards stated a ban on "non-Hindus", but the phrasing was later changed to "ban on outsiders" following police intervention, according to villagers.

A resident of Fata village said locals installed these signboards around 20-25 days ago after reports of outsiders being involved in thefts at temples and homes. Such signboards have been put up in villages such as Sirsi, Rampur-Nyalsu, and others.

Rudraprayag Deputy Superintendent of Police Prabodh Ghildiyal said that no one would be allowed to disrupt social harmony.

"As soon as the police were made aware, we took necessary action and had these signboards removed. If such incidents occur again, we will act," he said.

Recently, in Chamoli district, tensions arose after a minor girl alleged that a man from another community, made obscene gestures at her. This led to protests and an attempt by locals to target shops of the other community. Following the incident, members of the barber's community met Director General of Police Abhinav Kumar, alleging discrimination. This prompted the Rudraprayag police to take action in this matter. *—PTI*

BY 2027

Musk to be 1st trillionaire, Adani 2nd

WASHINGTON, 8 SEPT

Tesla CEO Elon Musk is on pace to become the world's first trillionaire by 2027, according to a new report from a group that tracks wealth.

Informa Connect Academy's finding about the boss of electric carmaker Tesla, private rocket company SpaceX and social media platform X stems from the fact that Musk's wealth has been growing at an average annual rate of 110 per cent. He was also the world's richest person, with USD 251 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, as the academy's 2024 Trillion Dollar Club report began circulating Friday.

Elon Musk and Gautam Adani ***PHOTO: PTI***

The academy's analysis suggested business conglomerate founder Gautam Adani of India would become the second to achieve trillionaire status. That would reportedly happen in 2028 if his annual growth rate remains at 123 per cent. Jensen Huang, the Chief Executive officer of the tech firm Nvidia, and Prajogo Pangestu, the Indonesian energy and mining mogul, could also become trillionaires in 2028 if their trajectories hold.

A handful of companies have secured valuations of more than USD 1 trillion. Berkshire Hathaway most recently topped the valuation in late August, days before its architect Warren Buffett celebrated his 94th birthday. Nvidia joined the USD 1trillion club in May 2023 and in June hit USD 3 trillion, positioning it at the time after Microsoft and before Apple as the world's second-most-valuable company.

However, as CNBC noted, the question of who might be the globe's first trillionaire has fascinated the public ever since the world crowned its first billionaire in 1916. That was the US's John D Rockefeller, the founder and at the time largest shareholder of Standard Oil.

Musk announced in August that he is supporting Donald Trump as the Republican nominee seeks a second presidency in November's election.

—Courtesy, The Guardian

Cong leaders spar over leadership change in State

BJP's Jagdish Shettar says inside fight has broken out among Cong leaders to become next CM

BENGALURU, 8 SEPT

As Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's petition challenging the Governor's sanction for his prosecution in a site allotment case is being heard in the High Court, some Congress leaders seem to have chosen to weigh in for the top post in the event of leadership change.

All Congress leaders and Ministers are, however, maintaining that Siddaramaiah will continue in the post.

A verbal duel of sorts has erupted between two senior Ministers -- MB Patil and Shivanand Patil -- about seniority as the yardstick to become the Chief Minister.

"There are people senior to me, but seniority is not the only yardstick. There is no question of change in Chief Minister now, Siddaramaiah is there as the Chief Minister, he will be there, and will continue in the future too, so the talk about changing Chief Minister is irrelevant," MB Patil said.

"One day or the other I will become the Chief Minister, I have desire, but don't have greed. As per Shivanana Patil's logic, if seniority has to be considered -- he has said I will have to wait, let's agree to it. But, he has recently come to the party from Janata Dal, BJP, he is not in the line. From Vijayapura district, if someone has to become Chief Minister, it is me, no one else," he added, while rejecting Shivananad Patil's statement as "personal opinion".

Earlier, noting that he has no desire to become Chief Minister, Shivanand, when asked if he supported MB Patil, said that there were many people who were senior to him in the party.

While, Deputy Chief Minister and state Congress President DK Shivakumar is seen as a prime contender for the post in case of any change in leadership, names of senior Ministers like Home Minister G Parameshwara and PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi too are doing rounds, especially following their recent meeting with party leadership in New Delhi.

BJP leader Jagdish Shettar; CM Siddaramaiah **PHOTO: PTI**

> While, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar is seen as a prime contender for the post in case of any change in leadership, names of senior Ministers like Home Minister G Parameshwara and PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi too are doing rounds

With MB Patil stating that Congress President M Mallikarjun Kharge, Siddaramaiah and RV Deshpande are seniors to him, and reiterating that Siddaramaiah will continue as Chief Minister, Jarkiholi said that he never claimed to be a senior or junior.

He said he will wait till 2028, and the talk of Chief Minister change is irrelevant now, as Siddaramaiah will continue.

Senior Congress MLA and Administrative Reforms Commission Chairperson RV Deshpande too had recently expressed his wish to become the Chief Minister.

Responding to Deshpande's comments, Siddaramaiah had last week said: "Who makes the Chief Minister? It is the legislators and the high command, they will decide...."

Senior BJP leader and MP Jagadish Shettar, taking a dig at the Congress, said that "inside fight" has broken out within the party to become the Chief Minister and it is likely to intensify in the days to come, even though "everyone in the ruling party are telling to the outside world" that they are all united behind Siddaramaiah.

"Deshpande started it, then MB Patil, Parsmwahwara, Satish Jarkiholi, the queue is big, and Shivakumar thinks that he is the legitimate claimant and is making all efforts internally. The Congress government will face trouble because of its infighting," he said. *—PTI*

Minister Byrathi Suresh dismisses rumours of CM change

MYSURU, 8 SEPT

Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh on Sunday dismissed rumours about a change in the Chief Ministership of Siddaramaiah. He stated that such a question does not arise, as the CM is delivering his best to the people of the state. Suresh emphasised that the government is not protecting anyone involved in the MUDA irregularities, including the suspended former MUDA Commissioner GT Dineshkumar. He assured that his government will not spare corrupt officers. Regarding allegations that former MUDA Chairman HV Rajiv obtained 848 alternative sites from MUDA, the minister said he has no information about these accusations against the former chairman. *—Salar News*

PHOTO: FACEBOOK

5 killed in a road accident in Tumakuru

TUMAKURU, 8 SEPT

Five people were killed and four others were injured in an accident involving two cars in Madhugiri Taluk here on Sunday, police said. According to information available as of now, three among the deceased are said to be from the same family travelling in a car, while the other two were in another car, police said. The deceased were three men, an eight-year old boy and a woman. Four people including a baby who was injured were shifted to hospital, where they are undergoing treatment. *—PTI*

Gaganachukki Jalapatotsava to be held on 14 Sept

MYSURU, 8 SEPT

The two day Jalapatotsava (water festival) at Gaganachukki Waterfall in Mandya will be celebrated on 14 and 15 September. Speaking to Salar News, Mandya ZP CEO Sheikh Tanveer Asif said that the Chief Minister of Karnataka, Siddaramaiah will inaugurate laser and lighting events organised jointly by the department of Tourism, Kannada and Culture and Mandya district administration on 14 September at 6 pm. State government has also released Rs 2 crore for the festival. The district administration has made all arrangements including free breakfast and food arrangements to the visitors. It will also hold various cultural events from morning till evening on both the days. He said that the district administration has also decided to develop a zoological garden, develop a walking path near Gaganachukki waterfalls *—Salar News*

IMD issues yellow alert for City, rain likely to hit 3 dists

BENGALURU, 8 SEPT

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecasted heavy rain accompanied by thunderstorms across the State from 9 to 11 September. A yellow alert has been issued for coastal and hilly areas, including districts such as Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, and Uttara Kannada.

The department has urged residents to exercise caution, as intense downpours could lead to localised flooding and disruptions.

In the hilly regions of South Interior Karnataka, particularly in Chikkamagaluru, Shivamogga, and Hassan districts, heavy rainfall is anticipated.

The weather conditions in these areas are expected to be severe, potentially causing disruptions to daily activities and travel.

The North Interior Karnataka districts, including Bidar, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, and Raichur, were predicted to have heavy rainfall on 8 September, with the weather easing off in the subsequent days. Light to moderate rainfall is forecasted across the rest of the northern regions.

Heavy rainfall is anticipated in Chikkamagaluru, Shivamogga, and Hassan districts **PHOTO: PTI**

Bengaluru and its surrounding areas, including Bengaluru Rural, Chikkaballapur, and Kolar districts, will also experience light to moderate showers, with wind speeds of 30-40 kmph starting Monday. The City is expected to remain cloudy, with temperatures ranging between 20°C and 28°C over the next few days.

IMD has advised the public to stay alert and take necessary precautions to avoid potential hazards.

Residents in affected areas should monitor weather updates and plan their movements accordingly. *—Salar News*

BYE BYE GANESHA

Devotees immerse Ganesha idols at a lake in Bengaluru on Sunday **PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD**

PHOTO: X

Tusker enters tourism dept hotel in BR Hills, causes panic

MYSURU, 8 SEPT

A wild elephant entered Mayur Hotel, located atop the Biligiriranga Temple Tiger Reserve, causing panic late on Saturday in Chamarajanagar district. The hotel staff ran for safety immediately after the incident. The event captured on CCTV, shows the elephant walking around the hotel premises after entering through the main gate. The footage, which has gone viral, also shows the hotel staff driving the elephant back into the woods by shouting. No damage was reported. This is not the first time a wild elephant has ventured into human-inhabited areas after straying from the forest in this popular tourist and pilgrimage spot.

A few months ago, a wild elephant attacked a petty shop after being attracted by jackfruits on Car Street in BR Hills. Following this, locals have urged the forest department to take measures to prevent wild animals from straying out of the forest. *—Salar News*

DKS refutes reports of political meetings during US trip

BENGALURU, 8 SEPT

Rejecting reports that he was travelling to the United States of America to meet some top leaders there, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday clarified that it was purely a personal visit with the family.

He has also released to the media a letter that he wrote to AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge, regarding his visit to the USA.

"I am travelling to the USA along with my family till 15 September. The media reports that I am meeting former US President Barack Obama and US Vice President Kamala Harris are incorrect. It is a personal visit," he clarified in a press statement.

"As I have already informed (you), I will be proceeding to Washington on 8 September 2024 evening on a private visit and I will be back on 16 September 2024. This is for your kind information," Shivakumar said in the letter to Kharge.

DK Shivakumar **PHOTO: PTI**

Earlier in the day, Shivakumar speaking to reporters here said he will be abroad for a week on a personal visit.

To a question about the agenda of his trip to the US and whether he will be meeting any big personalities there, he said, "it is a personal family trip....(meeting) no one, I'm going on a personal basis."

Shivakumar also met Chief Minister Siddramaiah at his residence earlier in the day, official sources said. *—PTI*

DKS warns of action on pothole issue

BENGALURU, 8 SEPT

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister Shivakumar on Sunday warned officials of "merciless action" if the potholes in Bengaluru city were not filled within the 15 days deadline that was set. Shivakumar, who is also the Minister in-charge of Bengaluru city development had on 1 September set a 15-day deadline to the City civic body Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike to fill potholes across the City, citing a lot of complaints. He said merciless action will be taken. *—Salar News*

8 trains cancelled for infra upgrade work at Yeshwanthpur

BENGALURU, 8 SEPT

The South Western Railway (SWR) on Sunday announced that eight trains will be cancelled for five months due to major development work at Yeshwanthpur railway station. The renovation of pit lines 1, 2, 3, and 4 at Yeshwanthpur yard will take place from 1 November to 31 March, 2025. This upgrade involves the demolition of old rails, removal of existing concrete, and the laying of new tracks, necessitating the temporary suspension of certain services. The cancelled trains include; train No. 12291 Yeshwanthpur-Dr MGR Chennai Central Weekly Superfast Express, which will not operate from 1 November to 28 March 2025. Its return service, Train No. 12292 Weekly Superfast Express, is cancelled from 2 November 2024 to 29 March 2025. North Central Railway has introduced seven special trains between Prayagraj and SMVT Bengaluru. *—Salar News*

Minister urges people to study Sharanas literature

MYSURU, 8 SEPT

State social welfare, district in charge minister Dr HC Mahadevappa on Sunday wanted people to study Sharanas literature as the social reformers always strived hard to build a discrimination- free equal egalitarian society. He was speaking after inauguration Sharana Nuliya Chandayya Jayanthi celebrations organised by the District Administration, Department of Kannada and Culture at Kalamandir in Mysuru. He said that all Sharanas also encouraged inter-caste marriage, and stood against superstitious practice and blind beliefs. Chamaraja MLA K Hairsh Gowda asked youths to emulate the teachings and ideals of Sharanas to build a discrimination free society. *—Salar News*

21 CITIES WIN

B'luru achieves 40% cut in PM10 pollution

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

The State's capital Bengaluru has become the first City to achieve more than 20-30 per cent reduction in PM10 pollution. It is to mention here that Bengalaluru is among the other cities like Khanna, Durgapur, Kurnool, Dera Baba Nanak, Vadodara, Allahabad, Asansol, Hyderabad, Gorakhpur, Ranchi, Akola, Ananthapur, Durg Bhilainagar, Surat and Noida recorded a 20-30 per cent reduction in PM10 levels during the 2017-18 period, the Central Pollution Control Board data showed.

Ninety-five of the 131 cities covered under the National Clean Air Programme have shown an improvement in air quality, with 21 reducing PM10 pollution by more than 40 per cent compared to 2017-18 levels, CPCB data shows.

Ninety-five of the 131 cities were covered under the National Clean Air Programme **PHOTO: PTI**

The CPCB also said that only 18 of the 131 National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) cities adhered to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for PM10, set at 60 micrograms per cubic metre.

The 21 cities and urban agglomerations that achieved more than 40 per cent reduction in PM10 pollution are Varanasi, Dhanbad, Byrnihat, Bareilly, Firozabad, Dehradun, Tuticorin, Nalagarh, Moradabad, Khurja, Trichy, Kohima, Lucknow, Kanpur, Kadapa, Sivasagar, Sunder Nagar, Agra, Greater Mumbai, Rishikesh and Parwanoo.

Fourteen cities, -- Ahmedabad, Ghaziabad, Rajkot, Jalandhar, Raebareli, Amritsar, Kolkata, Jammu, Silchar, Vijayawada, Naya Nangal, Dimapur, Baddi and Jodhpur -- reduced PM10 pollution by 30-40 per cent, compared to 2017-18 levels.

A 10-20 per cent reduction in PM10 pollution was recorded in 21 cities -- Delhi, Howrah, Thane, Latur, Nellore, Gajraula, Alwar, Chittur, Kala Amb, Mandi Gobindgarh, Amravati, Patiala, Jaipur, Ongole, Chandrapur, Nashik, Jhansi, Sangli, Kota, Devanagere and Rajahmundry.

India launched the NCAP in 2019 with a target to reduce particulate pollution by 20-30 per cent by 2024, using 2017 as the base year.

The target was later revised to a 40 per cent reduction by 2026, using 2019-20 as the base year.

Surat was on Saturday ranked as the top major city in India for air quality improvements, followed by Jabalpur and Agra. *—Salar News*

BMTC expands services with new routes from today

BENGALURU, 8 SEPT

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has announced the launch of new bus services, set to begin on 9 September. The new routes, ahead of Ganesha Chaturthi, are a much-anticipated addition for commuters. The non-AC buses will operate in areas with increasing demand for public transport, running from 5 am to 9.45pm.

The new routes include; route 154: Old Guddadahalli to Shivajinagar, passing through Sirsi Circle, KR Market, and Corporation Circle. 255-R: Yeshwantpur Main Bus Stand to Railway Gollahalli, covering Jalahalli Cross, Makali, and Huskoor. 253C: Yeshwantpur to Kanasawadi, with stops at Jalahalli Cross, Chikkabanavara, and Hesaraghatta. 374-S: Nelamangala to Sumanahalli Junction, via Sondekoppa, Thavarekere, and Sunkadakatte. 401-RA: Chikkegowdanapally to Yeshwantpur Main Bus Stand, passing through key locations like Vijayanagar and Rajajinagar. 516: Nelamangala to Kengeri TTMC. The initiative is expected to ease the reliance on auto-rickshaws, particularly in underserved areas, by offering better connectivity and more reliable public transportation options. *—Salar News*

PHOTO: PTI

PHOTO: PTI

Society doesn't like rifts in families, Ajit says he's sorry

GADCHIROLI, 8 SEPT

Noting that society doesn't like rifts in families, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar has said he experienced it and has already admitted his mistake, an apparent reference to the contest between his wife Sunetra and cousin Supriya Sule in the recent Lok Sabha polls. This is the second time in less than a month that NCP leader Pawar publicly admitted he had made a mistake by fielding his wife against NCP (SP) leader Sule, the daughter of his uncle Sharad Pawar, and noted politics should not enter the home. Addressing the Jansamman rally organised by the NCP in Gadchiroli city on Friday, Ajit Pawar tried to discourage party leader Dharmarao Baba Aatram's daughter. *—PTI*

ED officially registers actor Vijay's TVK party

CHENNAI, 8 SEPT

Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam party founder-president and top Tamil actor Vijay on Sunday announced that Election Commission has duly registered his outfit and expressed confidence of emerging as the primary political party of Tamil Nadu. Underscoring that equality is the basic principle of his new party, Vijay said that an application was filed with the EC on 2 February to register Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) as a political party. After legally considering it, the EC has now registered the TVK as a political party and "has given permission to take part as a registered party in electoral politics." *—PTI*

BJP's Aditya Devi Lal joins INLD, gets poll ticket

CHANDIGARH, 8 SEPT

BJP leader Aditya Devi Lal, the grandson of former deputy prime minister Devi Lal, joined the Indian National Lok Dal on Sunday and was fielded from Dabwali for the 5 October Assembly polls in Haryana. The 46-year-old leader joined the INLD at a rally of the party in Chautala village in Sirsa district in the presence of the party's senior leader Abhay Singh Chautala. Aditya Devi Lal quit as Haryana Marketing Board chairman recently. With him joining the INLD, the BJP lost its prominent face in Sirsa district less than a month ahead of the polls amid the rebel trouble for the ruling party in the State. Aditya Devi Lal said he has always stood for the people and will continue to do so. Taking a dig at the BJP, Abhay Chautala termed its leaders "opportunists" and accused them of using people for their own benefit. *—PTI*

Principal deletes Ganesha post from WhatsApp, arrested

KOTA, 8 SEPT

A government school principal was arrested after he allegedly deleted Ganesh Chaturthi greetings posted on the school WhatsApp group, which triggered protests by people of the village, officials said on Sunday. Villagers held demonstrations outside the school, demanding the removal of Shafi Mohammed Ansari, principal of government senior higher secondary school at Laturi village, they said. The principal allegedly removed posts that had a picture of Lord Ganesh from a school WhatsApp group. Parents and teachers are part of the group, DSP Narendra Nadar said. SHO at Bapawar Police Station Uttam Singh said Ansari was arrested for disturbing communal harmony. He was granted bail and released later in the evening, the officer said. The situation in the village remained normal and peaceful, the SHO said. *—PTI*

TMC MP quits party over Kolkata horror, corruption

Jawhar Sircar says he has never seen such angst against a govt

KOLKATA, 8 SEPT

TMC MP Jawhar Sircar on Sunday wrote to West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, the chief of his party, and said he has decided to quit Rajya Sabha and leave politics altogether, describing the steps taken by the state government in handling the rape and murder of the doctor at RG Kar hospital "too little and quite late".

In the letter, Sircar said he became increasingly "disillusioned" with the state government as it seemed "quite unconcerned" about corruption and "strong-arm tactics" of a section of leaders.

Terming the protests over the doctor's death spontaneous, the retired IAS officer said he had not seen "such angst and total no-confidence" against a government, even when it was saying things that were correct or factual.

TMC Rajya Sabha MP Jawhar Sircar PHOTO: PTI

"The primary purpose of joining as an MP, without any direct involvement in party politics, was that it offered an excellent forum to carry on the struggle against the autocratic and communal politics of the BJP and its Prime Minister. To that extent, I have some satisfaction and my several interventions in parliament," he said in the letter.

Sircar said that in 2022, a year after he joined the TMC, he was "quite shocked" to see the "open evidence of corruption" that former education minister Partha Chatterjee had indulged in.

Sircar said he had "suffered patiently" for a month since the incident at RG Kar hospital, hoping for direct intervention with the agitating junior doctors, "in the old style of Mamata Banerjee".

He said he would soon visit Delhi, and offer his resignation to the Rajya Sabha chairperson, disassociating himself from politics.

TMC leader Kunal Ghosh said the party respects Sircar's decision, and he was hopeful that the leadership would address the issues that were raised, and take strong, clear, and positive actions. *—PTI*

Congress candidate from Julana seat Vinesh Phogat on her 1st day of campaign ahead of Haryana polls at Julana, on Sunday PHOTO: PTI

'Haryana AAP-Cong tie still in limbo'

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

No final decision has been taken on the alliance with the Congress for the October 5 Haryana Assembly polls yet, sources in AAP said on Sunday.

The last date to file nominations is 12 September.

"The talks are underway but there is no final decision yet," said an AAP source.

Earlier in the day, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha said both Congress and his party are trying to forge an alliance for the Haryana elections by keeping aside individual aspirations.

Chadha said while the parties are yet to reach a consensus on the alliance, the talks are progressing in a "positive" direction and they are hopeful of a good outcome.

He, however, added that the AAP will not proceed with the alliance "if there is no win-win situation".

According to sources, while AAP is demanding 10 seats, Congress is ready to give them only seven

However, Chadha refused to divulge any details about the seat-sharing talks held so far. *—PTI*

BRIJ: HOODAS DID WHAT PANDAVAS DID TO DRAUPADI

GONDA, 8 SEPT

Former BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on Sunday accused the Hooda family of Congress of conspiring against him by using wrestlers as wager just as Pandavas had put Draupadi at stake.

At his residence on Sunday, he told reporters, "In the gambling which took place in Mahabharat, Draupadi was put at stake. The Pandavas lost. The country is still not able to accept their reasons for doing it."

He added, "The Hooda family put the honour of daughters and sisters at stake. The future generation will not forgive them for this and they will always be held guilty for this."

Singh said, "Bajrang Punia's mental condition has deteriorated. He had put his wife at stake. I want to ask him why he went to play in the Asian Games without trials?" .*—PTI*

BJP 'intimidating' Hindus in J&K: Farooq

SRINAGAR, 8 SEPT

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Sunday said BJP top brass was focussing its election campaign on Jammu as they want to "intimidate" the Hindu voters of Jammu and Kashmir by creating false fears.

He also accused the BJP of misleading the people by claiming that terrorism will rise again if the National Conference and Congress alliance came to power in Jammu and Kashmir.

He was speaking to reporters at Naseembagh mausoleum of National Conference founder Sheikh Muhammad Abdulla after paying tributes to the party founder on his 42nd death anniversary.

"They repealed Article 370 (of the Constitution) but did terrorism end? Terrorism is rising again and it is all their responsibility," he said.

Abdullah was responding to a question on why Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah were campaigning in Jammu while ignoring Kashmir.

"But, God willing they won't succeed. Our efforts will pave way to serve for the betterment of our people. The home minster can keep saying much about us as he wants but I want to tell him that we are against that Bharat, which they want to create. Bharat belongs to all -- Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists.

"We are not intruders. We are not snatching away mangalsutra. Muslims have an equal contribution towards the freedom of India," he added. *—PTI*

BJP releases 6th list of 10 candidates for J&K polls

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

BJP on Sunday released a list of 10 candidates for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls. According to the BJP's sixth candidates' list, Faqir Mohammad Khan will contest from Gurez Scheduled Tribe (ST), Abdul Rasheed Khan from Sonawari and Ghulam Mohammad Mir from Handwara. Bharat Bhushan will contest from Kathua, Rajeev Bhagat from Bishnah and Surinder Bhagat from Marh. BJP has named Vikram Randhawa from the Bahu seat. *—PTI*

MEET & GREET

AICC Secretary Mansoor Ali Khan calls on Congress leader AK Anthony at Thiruvananthapuram, on Sunday PHOTO: SALAR

RaGa arrives in US to 'strengthen' India's ties

HOUSTON, 8 SEPT

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday arrived in the US on a three-day visit during which he will hold "meaningful discussions and insightful conversations" to further strengthen the bond between India and America.

"I am truly delighted by the warm welcome I've received in Dallas, Texas, USA, from the Indian Diaspora and members of the Indian Overseas Congress," Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, said in a Facebook post.

"I eagerly look forward to engaging in meaningful discussions and insightful conversations that will further strengthen the bond between our two nations during this visit," he said, sharing some photographs of his arrival.

Indian Overseas Congress chairperson Sam Pitroda said last week that Opposition leader is not coming to the US in his official capacity but will have a chance to interact with a variety of people on Capitol Hill at an "individual level".

Lok Sabha LoP Rahul Gandhi receives a warm welcome at Dallas Fort Worth International Airport, in Texas, USA, on Sunday PHOTO: PTI

'US wants to work with India to address key global problems'

Meanwhile, US is keen on working with India to address some of the key global problems, including in areas like healthcare, clean energy and climate change, a top Biden administration official has said. The remarks by Nisha Desai Biswal, Deputy CEO of the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), came ahead of her visit to India this week.

"It's not about what India needs help with, as much as how the US and India are working together to address problems," Biswal told PTI in an interview. Her four-day trip to India will start on Tuesday. *—PTI*

SP, Cong spar over wolf attacks; BJP says UP govt will take action

LUCKNOW, 8 SEPT

Samajwadi Party and Congress are gearing up for bypolls to 10 Assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh, with the INDIA bloc partners targeting the State government over its "undemocratic" working style, "collapse" of law and order and the recent spate of wolf attacks.

Samajwadi Party chief spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary told PTI, "The government has failed on this front (stopping wolf attacks). It has made people of the entire State insecure. We are going to raise this (issue)."

Echoing the Samajwadi Party leader, Ajay Rai -- Congress' State unit chief -- told PTI that the government failed to control the wolf-attack situation and the "terror" was moving towards the cities.

The BJP, on the other hand, said the State government was making every effort to resolve the wolf-attack problem.

Eight people, seven of them children, were killed and about three dozen injured in alleged wolf attacks in Bahraich district in the last two months, official figures show.

"Both Samajwadi Party and Congress support the wolves of society (criminals). SP supports them directly while Congress supports them indirectly," Verma said. *—PTI*

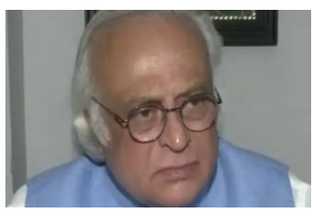
ADANI VS HIDENBURG

SEBI has a lot to explain: Cong after Mauritius FPIs challenge

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

Congress on Sunday said SEBI investigation into "Adani Group's brazen attempt" to bypass regulations is still languishing and capital markets regulator has a lot to explain.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh's remarks attacking SEBI came after a media report which claimed that two Mauritius-based foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), who were mentioned in the January 2023 report on the Adani Group by short-seller Hindenburg Research, have petitioned the Securities Appellate Tribunal, seeking urgent relief from complying with SEBI's new foreign investor norms before the upcoming 9 September deadline," Ramesh said.



Jairam Ramesh PHOTO: PTI

Both the FPIs are alleged to be violating rules that require investors to not be over-invested in a single stock.

These rules are meant to ensure that black money routed through tax havens does not flood back into Indian capital markets, Ramesh said, adding they must be upheld.

Ramesh's remarks come weeks after Hindenburg Research launched a fresh broadside against market regulator SEBI chairperson Madhabi Buch, alleging that she and her husband had stakes in obscure offshore funds used in the Adani money siphoning scandal. *—PTI*

Indresh Kumar PHOTO: PTI

NO LYNCHING, BE IT COWS OR MEN: RSS FUNCTIONARY

PATNA, 8 SEPT

Senior Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) functionary Indresh Kumar on Sunday asserted there should be "no man lynching and no cow lynching", in order to ensure that people from different faiths lived together in peace.

When asked about frequent incidents of lynching by cow vigilantes, which Opposition parties have blamed on the ascendance of BJP, an offshoot of the RSS, he said "In many parts of the country and the world people eat meat. But we must recognise that people are sensitive about cows. So, we should strive to create an environment in which there is no cow lynching and no man lynching. We should celebrate unity in diversity".

The RSS functionary, who is also a patron of "Pancham Dham", said the "international cultural organisation's Bihar chapter" launched a programme on Ganesha Chaturthi which will conclude on Maha Shiv Ratri next year.

He said "the state-wide programme is aimed at creating a society that is free from riots and caste based discrimination and is characterized by compassion for the poor. *—PTI*

EAM in Saudi Arabia for India-GCC meet

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Deputy Minister for Protocol Affairs of Saudi Arabia Abdulmajeed Al Smari, in Riyadh PHOTO: PTI

RIYADH, 8 SEPT

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar arrived here in the Saudi capital on Sunday on a two-day visit to attend the first India-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers' meeting.

Jaishankar is on the first leg of his three-nation tour that will also take him to Germany and Switzerland.

"Arrived in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to take part in the First India-Gulf Cooperation Council Foreign Ministers' Meeting. Thank Abdulmajeed Al Smari, Deputy Minister for Protocol Affairs for the warm reception," Jaishankar said in a post on X.

The GCC is an influential grouping comprising the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait. The total volume of India's trade with GCC countries stood at USD 184.46 billion in the financial year 2022-23.

Later in the day, Jaishankar visited the Saudi National Museum and King Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archives in Riyadh.

"Brought out India's deep historical connect that now serves as a foundation to develop a strong contemporary relationship," he said in another post.

In Riyadh, Jaishankar is also expected to hold bilateral meetings with foreign ministers of several GCC member countries.

From Riyadh, Jaishankar will travel to Germany where he will meet the German Foreign Minister as well as the leadership and other Ministers from the German government to review the entire gamut of bilateral relations. *—PTI*

4 men open fire outside Delhi night club, 1 arrested

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

A 30-year-old man was arrested after four men allegedly opened fire outside a night club in Delhi's Shahdara, police said on Sunday. At 12.59 am on Saturday, police received a call about a firing outside Kanch Club in the Jhilmil industrial area. A team from Seemapuri police station reached the spot and found two live cartridges and eight empty shells on the road outside the club, a senior officer said. There were two bullet marks on the door of the club, the officer said. According to the complaint lodged by the club's bouncer, four men arrived at the club around 11.45 pm on Friday. Two of them aimed their guns and shot at him. The accused then fled towards Vivek Vihar. . *—PTI*

Telangana man dies while shooting reels with cobra

TELANGANA, 8 SEPT

In a shocking incident, a 20-year-old man died after being bitten by a cobra that he kept in his mouth to shoot reels in Telangana. The man identified as Shivraj put the cobra's head inside his mouth to shoot reels in order to garner more views and get famous. But, this stunt proven fatal for him as he had lost his life. The deceased Shivraj and his father used to kill snakes to make a living and snake was also caught by them. Shivraj's father reportedly asked him to put the Cobra's head in his mouth to record the reel video. At the end of the video, the man shows thumbs up while the cobra head is in his mouth. *—Agencies*

R'than principal alters rape victim's birth records, held

JAIPUR, 8 SEPT

A private school principal and father of a 14-year-old rape survivor have been arrested for allegedly tampering with the birth records of the girl to help the accused secure bail, police said on Sunday. The principal was arrested from Deoria on Thursday while the girl's father was caught from Behror in Rajasthan on Saturday night, Station House Officer (SHO) of Murlipura Police Station Sunil Kumar Jangir said. The girl had lodged an FIR in July alleging that her aunt had sold her to one Sandeep Yadav, a resident of Haryana, for Rs two lakh and that she was subsequently raped. The case was registered under various sections of the IPC and POCSO Act. In the meanwhile, the girl's father Sanjay allegedly contacted a private school in Uttar Pradesh to obtain a false record to claim that the girl was an adult. *—PTI*

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Actor Vikas Sethi dies of cardiac arrest at 48

MUMBAI, 8 SEPT

Actor Vikas Sethi, best known for TV shows such as "Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi", Kahiin To Hoga", and "Sasural Simar Ka", died in Nashik on Saturday night in his sleep following a cardiac arrest. He was 48. According to his wife Jhanvi Sethi, they were in Nashik to attend a family function. "After we reached my mother's house in Nashik, he had vomiting and loose motions. He didn't want to go to the hospital so we asked the doctor to come home. "When I went to wake him up at around 6 am in the morning (on Sunday), he was no more. The doctor there told us he passed away last night in his sleep due to cardiac arrest," she told PTI. Besides being a familiar face on television, Sethi was part of the 2001 superhit film "Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham..." in which he played Robbie, a friend of Poo (Kareena Kapoor Khan). *—PTI*

Toll rises to 8 in Lucknow building collapse, 28 injured

PM announces Rs 2L for kin of deceased, Rs 50K for injured

LUCKNOW, 8 SEPT

A three-storey building housing godowns and a motor workshop collapsed in the Transport Nagar area on Saturday, leaving 8 dead and 28 people injured.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will visit Lok Bandhu Hospital to meet those injured in the incident, after returning from Ambedkar Nagar, Director, Information, Shishir said.

Joint Commissioner of Police Amit Verma said there is minimum possibility of someone still being trapped inside.

As the rescue operation continued overnight, teams of National Disaster Response team (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) recovered the bodies of three people, who were identified as Raj Kishore, 27, Rudra Yadav, 24, and Jagrup Singh, 35, Relief Commissioner G S Naveen said.

NDRF and SDRF personnel carry out relief work a day after a building collapsed, in Lucknow, on Sunday **PHOTO: PTI**

The eighth body was recovered around 3am on Sunday, officials said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each for the families of the deceased and Rs 50,000 for those injured in the building collapse at Transport Nagar in Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow on Saturday evening.

"The loss of lives due to a building mishap in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, is saddening. Prayers with those who lost their loved ones. May the injured recover soon," the PM said in a post on X.

Police said the building was constructed around four years ago and some construction work was underway at the time of the incident. Most of the victims were working on the ground floor when the incident occurred at 4:45 pm.

The injured have been admitted to various hospitals, including Lok Bandhu Hospital, in the district.

According to the officials, the building had a motor workshop and warehouse on the ground floor, a medical godown on the first floor and a cutlery warehouse on the second floor. Akash Singh, who worked in the medical godown and was among the injured, said a pillar of the building had developed a crack. *—PTI*

SEXUAL ASSAULT CHARGE

WB directors' body suspends filmmaker

KOLKATA, 8 SEPT

Arindam Sil **PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA**

Bengali filmmaker Arindam Sil was suspended by the Directors' Association of Eastern India (DAEI) following a complaint of sexual misconduct by an actress.

Sil was the first big name in the Bengali film industry, also called Tollywood, against whom action was taken after allegations of sexual harassment shook the entertainment industries of the southern states.

The suspension came into force with immediate effect, said a letter sent by DAEI late on Saturday.

"Due to certain allegations made against you, and prima facie evidence we have with us, which are of deep concern and is maligning to the entire organisation, DAEI has decided to suspend you from membership for indefinite period or till the allegations against you are cleared," said the letter sent by DAEI president Subrata Sen and secretary Sudeshna Roy.

Sil, who is also a well-known actor, told reporters that what was being construed as misbehaviour was unintentional.

He said the incident being referred to happened recently when he was explaining a scene to the actress during the shooting of a film. "No one objected to my actions or conduct at that time," he claimed.

The DAEI took up the matter after the actress filed a complaint with the West Bengal Commission for Women. In a letter to the commission, Sil expressed his apology. *—PTI*

SAYS CHARGESHEET

'Accused wanted to discredit democracy in Parl breach case'

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

Parliament security breach on 13 December, 2023 accused wanted to discredit India's democracy, gain instant global fame, usurp power and achieve "richness and glory" by targeting the "very symbol of democracy", according to the chargesheet filed in the court by Delhi Police.

Citing from the chargesheet, sources told PTI, that in total they held five meetings in Mysuru, Gurugram and Delhi to decided finalise their plan and arrive at a modus operandi.

The chargesheet mentioned that the group of young people, led by Manoranjan D, a resident of Karnataka, met on social media.

The major security breach took place on the anniversary of the 2001 Parliament terror attack.

Two people, Sagar Sharma and Manoranjan D jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber from the public gallery and opened canisters that released

PHOTO: PTI

yellow gas in the House.

Outside the Parliament premises around the same time, two other accused -- Amol Shinde and Neelam Azad -- also sprayed coloured gases, canisters while shouting "tanashahi nahi chalegi (dictatorship not allowed)"

The first meeting of the accused was held in February, 2022 in Mysuru at a flat of Manoranjan's friend which was attended by 10 people including Manoranjan D, Sagar Sharma, Amol Shinde, Lalit Jha and Mahesh Kumawat. The police also said in the chargesheet that the accused were members of a social media page "Bhagat Singh Fan Club. " *—PTI*

Coupling of Magadh Express breaks, train splits into two in Bihar

PATNA, 8 SEPT

The coupling of Magadh Express from New Delhi to Islampur broke, splitting the train into two between Twiniganj and Raghunathpur railway stations in Bihar's Buxar district on Sunday, officials said.

No one was injured in the incident which occurred at around 11.08 am between Twiniganj and Raghunathpur railway stations, they said.

Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) of East Central Railway Sharswati Chandra told PTI, "... the incident took place when the coupling of the Magadh Express (20802) from New Delhi to Islampur broke, splitting the train into two between Twiniganj and Raghunathpur railway stations."

"The incident occurred when the train passed Twiniganj.... it uncoupled between coach no S-7, the 13th from train engine and coach no S-6, the 14th from the engine between Twininganj- Raghunathpur in down line. A rescue team as well as technical teams have reached the spot and officials are trying to rectify it at the earliest", said the CPRO.

Passengers on railway tracks after coaches of Magadh Express train splitted into two parts near Tudiganj station, Bihar, on Sunday **PHOTO: PTI**

Train traffic on the down line is affected for some time, said the CPRO, adding it will be restored in an hour or so.

An inquiry will be ordered to probe the exact cause of the incident, he said. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

'RECLAIM THE NIGHT' PROTEST TO BE HELD IN WB

KOLKATA, 8 SEPT

Thousands of people were expected to hit the streets of West Bengal on Sunday as various demonstrations, including another 'Reclaim the Night' protest, were scheduled to be held seeking justice for the doctor who was allegedly raped and murdered at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital a month ago.

Noted people from different fields, including musicians, artistes, painters and actors, would join the 'Reclaim the Night' demonstration, which would start at 11 pm "to awaken the ruler", social activist Rimjhim Sinha said.

As part of the demonstration, people would gather at various intersections, crossings and roundabouts. While there will be multiple gatherings from Gol Park to Garia along the SC Mallick Road in south Kolkata, a march has been planned from Sodepur to Shyambazar along the BT Road in the north, one of the organisers said.

Besides Kolkata, similar demonstrations were also planned in Barrackpore, Barasat, Budgebudge, Belgharia, Agarpara, Dumdum and Baguiati, among others.

The 'Reclaim the Night' demonstration was earlier held on 14 August and 4 September. *—PTI*

CROCODILES IN CITY

A nine-feet-long crocodile strayed into a residential area in Mumbai from where it was rescued on Sunday morning **PHOTO: PTI**

Stones pelted during Ganesha procession in MP

RATLAM, 8 SEPT

A procession carrying an idol of Lord Ganesh in Madhya Pradesh's Ratlam faced stone-pelting following which heavy security was deployed at important places in the city, police said on Sunday.

The incident took place in Mochipura area on Saturday night when some people were carrying the deity's idol for installation as part of the 10-day Ganesh festival.

Later, when police reached the spot, their vehicle was damaged in the subsequent stone-pelting, an official said.

The situation is currently under control, Superintendent of Police Rahul Kumar Lodha told PTI.

He said that nearly 500 people gheraoed the Station Road police station on Saturday night demanding action against an unidentified person who threw a stone at the Ganesh procession in Mochipura area.

PHOTO: PTI

Police registered a case against the unidentified person on a complaint and rushed to the spot for investigation. The crowd followed the police to the scene, the official said.

Someone threw a stone again and stone-pelting ensued in which a police vehicle's glass broke, he said. *—PTI*

Heavy rain continues to lash parts of R'than, Himachal

JAIPUR/SHIMLA, 8 SEPT

Heavy rain battered many places in Rajasthan with Kathumar in Alwar logging the highest rainfall of 11 cm, meteorological department said.

According to the Meteorological Centre, Jaipur, heavy rainfall was recorded in Alwar, Baran, Bharatpur, Bundi, Jhalawar, Karauli, Sirohi and Tonk districts, in the last 24 hours that ended at 8.30 am on Sunday.

Light to moderate rain would continue in the state till 10 September, the Met centre said.

Shimla

Over 60 roads have been blocked in Himachal Pradesh following rains, officials said on Sunday.

A maximum of 31 roads were closed in Mandi, 13 in Shimla and Mandi, 10 in Kangra, four in Kinnaur, two in Kullu and one each in Una, Sirmaur and Lahaul and Spiti districts, the state emergency operation centre (SEOC) said.

PHOTO:PTI

National Highway 5 (the Hindustan-Tibet road) is blocked near Negulsari in Kinnaur district. As many as 11 power and one water supply scheme are also disrupted in the state, the SEOC said.

A total of 158 people have died in rain-related incidents during the ongoing monsoon season from 27 June till 7 September, while 30 are still missing. *—PTI*

RELIED ON YOUTUBE

Teen dies after fake doctor performs surgery

PATNA, 8 SEPT

A 15-year-old boy died after a botched gall bladder stone removal surgery performed by a fake doctor in Bihar's Saran district, on Sunday. The doctor, who allegedly relied on YouTube videos to perform the procedure, is on the run.

The teen was admitted to a clinic run by the 'doctor', Ajit Kumar Puri, in Madhaura on Friday night by his family. He was complaining of vomiting and stomach pain.

According to family members, Puri started operating on the teenager without their knowledge or consent. They allege that he was performing the surgery by watching YouTube videos on his mobile phone.

The family members said they do not know if the 'doctor' had proper qualifications. "We think he was self-styled and fake," they said.

The teen was admitted to a clinic run by the 'doctor', Ajit Kumar Puri, in Madhaura on Friday night **PHOTO: X**

The fake doctor eventually decided to take the boy to a hospital in Patna, but he died on the way. Puri then fled the scene, leaving the boy's body behind.

- According to family members, Puri started operating on the teenager without their knowledge or consent. They allege that he was performing the surgery by watching YouTube

The family filed a complaint with local police accusing Puri of negligence and malpractice. They claim that he was unqualified and inexperienced, and that his actions led to the teenager's death.

A case has been registered against the fake doctor and his clinic staff. Police are conducting raids to apprehend the accused. *—Agencies*

12 dead in Kutch from undiagnosed fever

BHUJ, 8 SEPT

Twelve people, including four children below the age of 12, have died in Lakhpat taluka in Gujarat's Kutch district days after the region was battered by heavy rains, with officials on Sunday saying the cause of death primarily appears to be pneumonitis.

Some local district panchayat members, however, said doctors had not been able to accurately diagnose the fever, which was also causing difficulty in breathing.

Medical services in the taluka, which is located near the border with Pakistan, have been intensified with the deployment of 22 surveillance teams, doctors and obtaining samples from residents to rule to possibility of H1N1, swine flu, Crimean-Congo fever, malaria and dengue, Kutch Collector Amit Arora said.

"Primarily, the deaths appear to have been caused by pneumonitis. It does not appear to be from contamination nor does it seem like a communicable disease. Twenty-two health department teams are working in the affected areas, including those brought on deputation from two community health centres as well as rapid response teams from Rajkot PDU medical college," he added.

As per residents, patients had fever, cold, cough, pneumonia and were having difficulty breathing, while another district panchayat member Mamd Jung Jat said doctors had not been able to make an accurate diagnosis of the disease. *—PTI*

WORLD'S BIGGEST IPHONE

Indian-origin YouTuber Arun Rupesh Maini, widely known as Mrwhosetheboss, who has 19.4 million subscriber bases on YouTube has built the world's biggest iPhone. He built iPhone 15 pro-max which is 6.74 feet in height. This special phone also has unique features. The structure was built with the help of Matthew Perks, known as DIYPerks. The YouTuber sets Guinness World Record for his invention ***PHOTO: X***

Mainstreaming Andaman tribes sparks fresh row

The gradual integration of tribals in Andaman and Nicobar Islands into mainstream society has sparked mixed reactions with some experts expressing concern that it could lead to their exploitation by outsiders, while others believe it is essential for their survival, advocating for education to help them adapt to societal changes.

This trend is primarily noticed among Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) such as Shompens, Jarawas (Ang), Onges, and the Great Andamanese who live in their respective reserved dense forests where non-tribals are barred.

A watershed moment took place on 19 April, 2024, when Nauaaw and six other Shompens, including Jetuwai, Thuwaee, and Chemai, voted in the Lok Sabha elections for the first time, marking a significant milestone for their community.

Shompens are predominantly uncontacted nomadic hunters, with a population of 244 on Nicobar Island. Nicobar Island is currently in the news due to the Rs 72,000-crore international transshipment project by the Centre, which some fear might displace the Shompens.

However, local administration officials claimed that the project is proposed for an area not inhabited by the Shompens, as they had already moved inside jungles following the 2004 tsunami. Amidst the controversy surrounding the project, some Shompens, who had preferred isolation, participated in the voting process, signalling a step towards gradual integration into mainstream society.

Additionally, some members are in touch with government tamiyos (caretakers in Shompen language) for essentials, which anthropologists view as the beginning of a broader shift towards integration at their own willingness.

Dr Pronob Sircar, Tribal Welfare Officer at the Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti (AAJS), explained,

This trend is primarily noticed among Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups such as Shompens, Jarawas, and Onges ***PHOTO: ANDAMAN TOURISM***

"The gradual integration of PVTGs is occurring through tribal policies that encourage developing communication channels and participation based on their willingness."

He added that the Ang tribe is also adapting to mainstream lifestyles, with initiatives like the 'Ang Katha' educational module documenting their rituals and ethnobotanical knowledge. "Similar educational modules are in place for other PVTGs, which will help them differentiate between societal norms," he said.

While some experts argue that such integration threatens indigenous cultures, the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs asserts that it aims to empower and stabilise these populations. Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Jual Oram emphasised, "Integration is based on the tribes' willingness, not coercion, and aims to balance modernisation with cultural preservation."

Personalities like Great Andamanese Queen Surmai, Onge King Totoko, and Nicobar Prince Rashid support gradual integration. Onge King Totoko works for the Public Welfare Department in Dugong Creek, and his neighbours, Rakabegi and Oroti, hold government positions.

Similarly, significant social transformation is evident among the Great Andamanese, who previously rarely left their settlement areas. Techa became the first Great Andamanese to clear the NEET-2022 exam, highlighting her challenging journey from Strait Island.

"My journey from remote Strait Island to Port Blair and then clearing the NEET was challenging. My concern was my acceptance in the outside world," she said. Olake, another Great Andamanese, a junior engineer in the PWD department, said, "It's time to think beyond the jungles for a career."

Notably, nine Great Andamanese, including Buro, Ellage, and Morophoo, now work in the police force, overseeing lookout posts and performing clerical duties. Buro reflected, "From living in the jungle to wearing khaki... I am speechless."

Recently, Solomon Samuel became the first Nicobari to be promoted to deputy superintendent of police. Andamanese sportspersons like Moore (cricket), Dech (archery), and Jurol (archery) are also making strides in their fields.

Visits to PVTG homes reveal the adoption of modern amenities such as televisions, music systems, and personal care products. SA Awaradi, former Director of the Andaman Nicobar Tribal Research Institute (ANTRI), observed, "It is evident that PVTGs will integrate into mainstream society eventually. Instead of merely providing aid, well-considered welfare programmes are needed to help them coexist with the broader population without exploitation." Awaradi also noted that the Great Andamanese have largely lost their ethnic culture, now using Hindi, while some Onge youths are becoming enamoured with movies and television and developed a taste for alcohol. Traditional skills like canoe building and hunting have declined, replaced by a diet high in carbohydrates.

Nevertheless, the local administration contends that gradual integration has benefited PVTG communities. In an official statement recently, the Tribal Welfare Department highlighted, "Positive interventions in healthcare and education have stabilised tribal populations and inspired their younger generations to pursue better job opportunities."

Over the past decade, support has enabled 26 Andamanese and seven Onge PVTGs to secure government positions across various departments. Addressing the adoption of new habits among PVTGs, the statement noted, "As Andamanese PVTGs interact more with mainstream society, they may adopt new preferences like cosmetics and electronic items. This can lead to gradual changes in their cultural practices, but personal autonomy allows people to make personal choices." —*AP*

SALAR ساڈا بنگلور

Can fur farming in China spark next pandemic?

Infectious-diseases researchers are calling for stricter biosafety measures in farms that breed animals for fur, to stop dangerous pathogens from jumping from animals to people.

Fur farms can be a bridge between people and the viruses circulating in wildlife, says Eddie Holmes, a virologist at the University of Sydney, Australia. "This is how pandemics happen."

The warnings come off the back of one of the largest studies1 of viruses harboured by fur animals in China. The team, which included Holmes, found a broad array of viruses — including new pathogens and known ones found in new hosts. The study was published in Nature on Wednesday.

Researchers have long suspected that these animals are a reservoir of viruses that can jump to people, says Alice Hughes, a conservation biologist at the University of Hong Kong. The analysis "highlights that these concerns are valid, and that the diversity of viruses with known risks to humans is even greater than was realized". Hughes says the industry should mandate transitioning to artificial fur.

The other option is to improve regulation and oversight of the fur trade, says Hughes. This includes ensuring the implementation of measures such as animal quarantines, reducing overcrowding and rules around cleaning cages, sourcing feed and waste disposal, she says.

Linfa Wang, a virologist at Duke-NUS Medical School in Singapore, says the animal-farming and animal-trading industries need to be monitored closely for emerging diseases.

Mark Oaten, chief executive officer of the International Fur Federation which represents farms in more than 40 countries, in London, says farms should operate to the highest biosecurity standards. "The prevention and surveillance measures undertaken by fur farmers continue being the best toolbox to further mitigate any risk for the general public's health," he says.

Global industry

Fur farming is a global industry, although most farms are found in Europe and China. In 2016, farms in Europe produced 39.05 million mink pelts; Chinese farms produced 26.16 million such pelts.

Many animals farmed for their fur are susceptible to human viruses. Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, SARS-CoV-2 spread through mink farms across Europe. But Oaten says studies of these outbreaks found that farmers were not driving the spread of the virus in the general population, and that prevention and surveillance measures implemented by farmers are "the best toolbox to further mitigate any risk for the general public health."

The team found a broad array of viruses — including new pathogens and known ones found in new hosts ***PHOTO: PETA***

- Researchers have long suspected that these animals are a reservoir of viruses that can jump to people, says Alice Hughes, a conservation biologist at the University of Hong Kong

Mink farms have also had outbreaks of the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza virus. And a popular fur animal, the raccoon dog (Nyctereutes procyonoides), could have played a part in bringing the virus that causes severe acute respiratory syndrome to people in 20032. Raccoon dogs are also susceptible to, and can spread, SARS-CoV-23.

Holmes and his colleagues, including several in China, sought to identify the viruses circulating in farms in China. They swabbed lung and gut tissue samples for 461 animals that died between 2021 and 2024. Of these animals, 164 came from four species farmed exclusively for fur: mink (Neogale vison), red fox (Vulpes vulpes), Arctic fox (Vulpes lagopus) and raccoon dog. The individuals were predominantly from intensive breeding facilities in northeastern China. The rest came from farmed and wild animals used for fur as well as food and traditional medicine, spread more broadly across eastern China. These included guinea pigs, deer and rabbits. The animals had all been sick and had probably died of an infectious disease.

The researchers sequenced RNA and DNA in the tissue samples and found a trove of viruses: 125 were identified in total, including many influenza viruses and coronaviruses.

Of these, 36 had never been seen before, and many were found in species not previously known to host them. For instance, they found the Japanese encephalitis virus in guinea pigs and norovirus in mink.

Human receptor

The researchers found an H6N2 avian influenza virus in a muskrat (Ondatra zibethicus) — the first known identification of this subtype in mammals. And most notably, they found in mink a HKU5-like coronavirus related to viruses that have so far been identified only in bats — evidence that fur farms can act as a highway for viruses lurking in wild animals to get to people.

These viruses "stand out to me the most", says Michael Letko, a molecular virologist at Washington State University in Pullman. Studies in Letko's laboratory have shown that some HKU5 viruses might be able to adapt to the human ACE2 receptor to enter cells4, just as certain viruses, such as SARS-CoV-2, do. "A deeper dive into these newly discovered viruses will be important, in order to understand their risk to other animals," he says.

The researchers classified some three dozen viruses as most concerning, because of their ability to jump between species. Raccoon dogs and mink each carried ten of these high-risk viruses — the most of any species.

Wang says the findings need to be corroborated with epidemiological studies to assess how widespread the viruses are, and infection studies in the lab, which can demonstrate the risk of these viruses infecting people. Even without that evidence, he says, the highest risk of a new pathogen emerging in people "is in the animal industry".

—*Courtesy, Nature*

LETTERS

Write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

Moon had recent volcanic activity, Chinese space mission confirms

Volcanoes were erupting on the Moon as recently as 120 million years ago, evidence collected by a Chinese spacecraft suggests. Until the last few years, scientists had thought volcanic activity ended on the Moon around 2 billion years ago.

The findings, published in Science, come from analysis of lunar rock and soil delivered to Earth by China's Chang'e 5 spacecraft in 2020. While these results are difficult to reconcile with the accepted history of lunar volcanism, it's possible some areas of the Moon's interior were more enriched in radioactive elements that generate the heat that drives volcanic activity.

The region where Chang'e 5 landed, called Oceanus Procellarum, may be one such area where rocks were enriched in these heat-producing elements.

Volcanism is a major way in which all rocky planetary bodies lose their heat. The rocky bodies in our Solar System are Earth, Venus, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter's satellite Io, and Earth's satellite, the Moon. All available evidence suggests that Venus is currently volcanically active. On Mars, we can date the ages of formation of large lava flows by counting the numbers of impact craters on these flows.

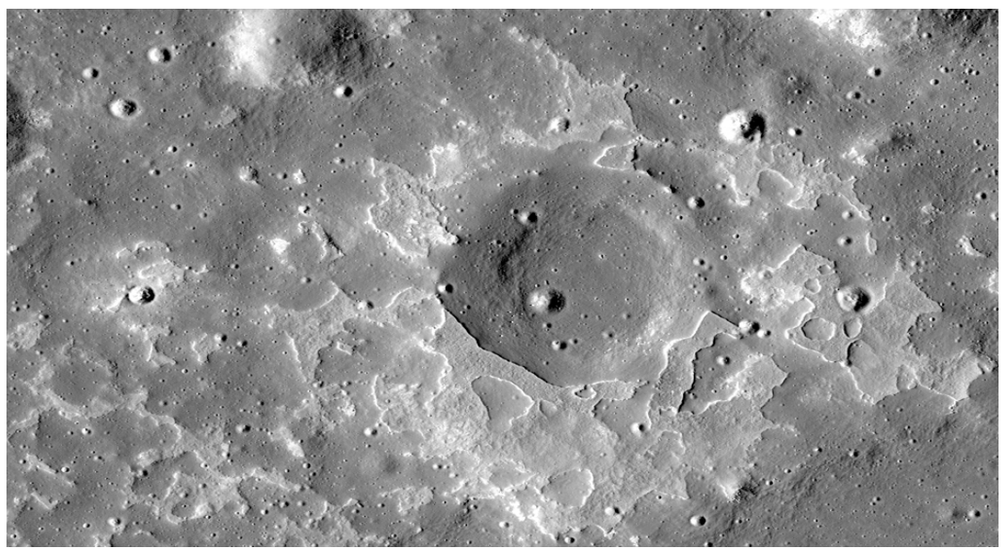
This crater-counting technique relies on the fact that craters form randomly and uniformly across planetary surfaces, so highly cratered terrains are considered older. The results suggest that Mars, which is half the size of Earth, is volcanically active every few million years.

This is expected, because larger bodies conserve heat better than smaller ones. On this basis Mercury, which is a third of Earth's size, and our Moon, a quarter the size of Earth, should have been volcanically dead for about 2 billion years.

The same should be true of Io, which is similar in size to our Moon. However, tidal forces generated by gravitational interactions with Jupiter give Io an additional, strong heat source. Io is very volcanically active as a result.

The Moon's dark areas

Most eruptions on the Moon took place near the edges of giant depressions formed early in the Moon's history by asteroid impacts. Lava flooded the interiors of these basins to form the dark areas on the Moon's near side. These areas are call maria (singular mare), the Latin for seas, because the flat sheets of lava were mistaken for expanses of water by early observers.



Scientists say it's possible some areas of the Moon's interior were more enriched in radioactive elements that generate the heat that drives volcanic activity ***PHOTO: SCIENCE/NASA***

Analyses of the composition and age of samples returned from these mare areas by the six Apollo missions and three Soviet robotic probes were consistent with the belief there had been no geologically recent volcanic activity on the Moon.

The simplest explanation for this was that these IMPs were young, typically about 100 million years old. This is 20 times younger than the 2 billion-year youngest age that had been expected. In an attempt to reconcile these observations with the accepted history of lunar volcanism, it was pointed out that the lack of any atmosphere on the Moon would make eruptions there significantly different from those on Earth. The lack of confining pressure would have allowed erupting lavas to release almost all of the gaseous compounds dissolved in them, allowing some lava flows to contain very large numbers of gas bubbles – to the extent of being a foam.

Meteoroid impacts into this soft foam would produce much smaller craters than in solid rock, thus causing the crater-counting method to give ages that were too young. This issue has seen much debate, and the best way to resolve it is the return of samples to Earth for detailed laboratory analysis. Chang'e 5 brought back samples from a very large lava flow which was already known, from crater-counting, to be relatively young in geological terms.

- Initial analyses of many fragments of the lava were consistent with the long-accepted theory that lunar volcanism stopped 2 billion years ago. However, closer examination of the Chinese samples, as described in the new Science paper, focused on some of the smallest fragments – the majority from rock shattered and melted into droplets by meteoroid impacts

Initial analyses of many fragments of the lava were consistent with the long-accepted theory that lunar volcanism stopped 2 billion years ago. However, closer examination of the Chinese samples, as described in the new Science paper, focused on some of the smallest fragments – the majority from rock shattered and melted into droplets by meteoroid impacts.

Three of these 3,000 droplets were identified from their detailed chemistry as volcanic in origin, and are only 120 million years old – very similar to the young ages inferred for IMPs elsewhere on the Moon.

Lunar eruptions

Lunar eruptions should have involved high lava fountains like those commonly seen erupting in Hawaii, for example. While most of these droplets would have accumulated into lava flows, some would have been thrown out for tens of kilometres to other parts of the Moon's surface.

The three "volcanic droplets" identified in the Chang'e 5 sample were probably not erupted from the same vent as the bulk of the rock and soil delivered to Earth. This would explain why these droplets are much younger than the lava flow at Chang'e 5's landing site.

These three glassy droplets are the first physical evidence we have for anomalously recent volcanic activity on the Moon. There would have to have been much higher concentrations of heat-producing radioactive elements in some areas than others for volcanic activity to have occurred as recently as the new results imply. So, these findings could prompt a major revision in our understanding of how the Moon developed.

—*The Conversation*

Singapore donates $100K to B'desh as flood relief

SINGAPORE, 8 SEPT

Singapore on Sunday pledged USD 1,00,000 to support the Singapore Red Cross' (SRC) public fund-raising efforts following severe floods in eastern Bangladesh. "The contribution will support humanitarian relief efforts and the immediate needs of affected communities," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said. On September 5, the SRC pledged USD 50,000 to support emergency operations in Bangladesh, providing essential aid and relief to affected communities through the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS). It said it is in contact with the BDRCS as well as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to monitor the situation and is ready to provide further assistance. *—PTI*

Manhunt after cars shot at on US highway

LONDON, 8 SEPT

A manhunt was underway early Sunday as police searched for a gunman in a rural area of southeastern Kentucky near Interstate 75, according to authorities who said at least seven people were hurt in the shooting and a vehicle accident that accompanied the violence. The shooting began just after 6.30 pm on Saturday and was followed by an intense search for a suspect by multiple law enforcement agencies. The Laurel County Sheriff's Office said in a post on Facebook that it was an "active shooter situation" and "numerous people" were shot near the highway. In a video statement, London Mayor Randall Weddle said he was told seven people were hurt, but not all of those were wounded by gunfire. *—AP*

Stop threatening ethnic groups: Myanmar to China

BANGKOK, 8 SEPT

Nearly 300 Myanmar civil society groups have called on China to immediately halt all threats against the country's Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs) and to cease pressuring them to agree to a ceasefire and concessions with the "illegal Myanmar military junta," according to a report in The Irrawaddy. The statement from the organisations, as reported on the website of the publication produced by former Burmese activists who fled violent crackdowns on anti-military protests, said, "The Myanmar military junta is perpetrating atrocities on a mass scale and is the prime cause of instability and regional insecurity." They stated that China's support for the junta and its planned election "undermines the will of the Myanmar people, deepens the people's suffering, and prolongs the crisis." *—ANI*

PHOTO: X

Maya, Basset get their 6th and 1st Emmy awards

LOS ANGELES, 8 SEPT

Maya Rudolph won her sixth career Emmy on Saturday night, taking the trophy for best character voice-over for her work on "Big Mouth" at the Creative Arts Emmy Awards, while **Angela Bassett** won her first for her narration of the National Geographic show "Queens". The former and future "Saturday Night Live" star Rudolph is up for three more Emmys. Her voice-over work as the Hormone Monstress on the Netflix animated show "Big Mouth" has earned her four of her Emmys. "It's making me cry because I'm very menopausal," Rudolph said. Bassett appeared to collect her trophy for best narrator, a category that is usually star studded but where the winner, like Barack Obama last year, rarely shows. "Oh my god, wow, my first Emmy," an emotional Bassett said. *—AP*

Iran supplied missiles to Russia: US to allies

These can allegedly be used against Ukraine

WASHINGTON, 8 SEPT

The White House declined to confirm the weapons' transfers but reiterated its concerns that Iran is deepening its support to Russia *PHOTO: TASNIM*

Iran has supplied Moscow with its Shahed attack drone to use on the battlefield. Tehran has always denied this, saying the deliveries were made before the start of the war.

The United States has informed allies that it believes Iran has transferred short-range ballistic missiles to Russia to use in its war in Ukraine, according to two people familiar with the matter.

They did not offer any details about how many weapons have been delivered or when the transfers took place, but did confirm the US intelligence findings.

The White House declined to confirm the weapon transfers but reiterated its concerns that Iran is deepening its support to Russia. The White House has warned Tehran for months against transferring ballistic missiles to Russia.

"Any transfer of Iranian ballistic missiles to Russia would represent a dramatic escalation in Iran's support for Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and lead to the killing of more Ukrainian civilians," National Security Council spokesman Sean Savett said in a statement.

Iran has been supplying Russia with weaponry to use on the battlefield in the form of its Shahed attack drone since autumn 2022. They are regarded as the most significant contribution Tehran has made to Russia's war effort because of the amount of damage they're able to inflict.

The US intelligence findings come as Russia claims to have seized another village in the eastern Donetsk region. The Moscow Times quoted the Russian Defence Ministry as saying Russian forces "have liberated the village of Kalynove", around 25 kilometres southeast of the Pokrovsk.

Russian troops have been advancing on the key logistics hub for months prompting Ukraine to order the mandatory evacuation of children from the city last month. Moscow claims to have seized a string of villages in Donetsk, even as it struggles to fight off a major Ukrainian incursion into its Kursk region.

Kursk residents went to the polls to vote in local elections. Russians will elect governors in 25 regions, legislative assembly members in 13 regions, including two in annexed Crimea, and scores of local officials. *—Courtesy, Euro News*

Three Israelis were killed at the Allenby crossing by a Jordanian driver who smuggled a gun in his truck *PHOTO: X*

Shooting attack at Jordan border kills 3 Israelis

JERUSALEM, 8 SEPT

Three people were shot and killed Sunday at the border crossing between the West Bank and Jordan, Israeli officials said.

The military said the gunman approached the Allenby Bridge Crossing from the Jordanian side in a truck and opened fire at Israeli security forces, who killed the assailant in a shootout. It said the three people killed were Israeli civilians.

Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said the three men who were killed were in their 50s.

There was no immediate comment from Jordan, which made peace with Israel in 1994 but is fiercely critical of its policies toward the Palestinians.

The Allenby crossing is mainly used by Israelis, Palestinians and international tourists.

The Israeli-occupied West Bank has seen a surge of violence since Hamas' 7 October attack out of Gaza triggered the war there. Israel has launched near-daily military arrest raids into dense Palestinian residential areas, and there has also been a rise in settler violence and Palestinian attacks on Israelis.

Gaza's Health Ministry says over 40,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since the war erupted 11 months ago. It does not differentiate between fighters and civilians in its count.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has called for an alliance of Islamic nations to stop "Israeli arrogance, Israeli banditry, and Israeli state terrorism". Erdogan made the remarks after Palestinian and Turkish officials said that a Turkish-American woman taking part in a protest on Friday against settlement expansion in the West Bank was killed by Israeli troops. *—AP/ANI*

HOUTHIS CLAIM THEY SHOT DOWN 1 MORE US DRONE

DUBAI, 8 SEPT

Yemen's Houthi rebels claimed early Sunday they shot down another American-made MQ-9 drone flying over the country, marking potentially the latest downing of the multimillion-dollar surveillance aircraft. The US responded with airstrikes over Houthi-controlled territory, the rebels said.

The US military did not immediately respond to a request for comment over the Houthi claim. The rebels offered no pictures or video to support the claim as they have in the past, though such material can appear in propaganda footage days later.

However, the Houthis have repeatedly downed General Atomics MQ-9 Reaper drones in the years since they seized Yemen's capital, Sanaa, in 2014. Those attacks have exponentially increased since the start of the Israel-Hamas war and the Houthis launched their campaign targeting shipping in the Red Sea corridor.

Saree offered no details on how the rebels down the aircraft. However, Iran has armed the rebels with a surface-to-air missile known as the 358 for years. Iran denies arming the rebels, though Tehran-manufactured weaponry has been found on the battlefield and in seaborne shipments heading to Yemen despite a United Nations arms embargo. *—AP*

Trump vows '100% tariff' on countries ditching US dollar

WASHINGTON, 8 SEPT

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump speaks to the Fraternal Order of Police in Charlotte on Sunday *PHOTO: PTI*

Donald Trump pledged on Saturday to make it too costly for countries to shift away from using the US dollar, adding a new pillar to his tariff platform.

"You leave the dollar and you're not doing business with the United States because we are going to put a 100 per cent tariff on your goods," the Republican presidential nominee said at a rally in the battleground state of Wisconsin.

The statement follows months of discussions between Trump and his economic advisers on ways to penalise allies or adversaries who seek active ways to engage in bilateral trade in currencies other than the dollar.

Options have included export controls, currency manipulation charges and tariffs, people familiar with the matter have previously told Bloomberg News. Trump, who has long embraced protectionist trade policies, said the dollar has been "under major siege" for eight years. China, India, Brazil, Russia and South Africa discussed de-dollarization at a summit last year. By contrast, Trump wants the dollar to remain the world's reserve currency, a pledge he renewed at Saturday's rally.

Wisconsin is one of the most critical swing states in the race between Trump and Democratic rival Kamala Harris.

On the other hand, with just days to go before his first — and likely only — debate against Vice President Kamala Harris, Trump leaned into his familiar grievances about everything from his indictments and efforts to keep him off the ballot as he campaigned in one of the most deeply Republican swaths of battleground Wisconsin.

"The Harris-Biden DOJ is trying to throw me in jail — they want me in jail — for the crime of exposing their corruption," Trump claimed at an outdoor rally at Central Wisconsin Airport, where he spoke behind a wall of bullet-proof glass following his July assassination attempt. At the rally, Trump again criticised Harris in dark and ominous language, claiming that if the woman he calls "Comrade Kamala Harris gets four more years, we will be living in a full-blown Banana Republic ruled by anarchy."

—Courtesy, Gazette Xtra/ AP

POPE ARRIVES IN NEW GUINEA

A blind student of the Holy Trinity Humanistic School hugs Pope Francis in Baro, near Vanimo, Papua New Guinea, on Sunday. He reached there with tonnes of medicines and toys for the people who live there *PHOTO: PTI*

Typhoon Yagi hits Vietnam, 14 killed

HANOI, 8 SEPT

At least 14 people have died and 176 others injured in Vietnam after Typhoon Yagi slammed the country's north, state media said Sunday, as officials warned of heavy downpours despite its waning power.

Described by Vietnamese officials as one of the most powerful typhoons to hit the region over the last decade, Yagi left more than 3 million people without electricity in northern Vietnam. It also damaged vital agricultural land, nearly 116,192 hectares where rice and fruits are mostly grown. Hundreds of flights were cancelled after four airports were closed.

The typhoon made landfall in Vietnam's northern coastal provinces of Quang Ninh and Haiphong with wind speeds of up to 149 km per hour (92 miles per hour) on Saturday afternoon. It raged for roughly 15 hours before gradually weakening into a tropical depression early Sunday morning. Vietnam's meteorological department predicted heavy rain in northern and central provinces and warned of floods in low-lying areas, flash floods in streams and landslides on steep slopes.

Storms like Yagi were "getting stronger due to climate change, primarily because warmer ocean waters provide more energy to fuel the storms, leading to increased wind speeds and heavier rainfall," said Benjamin Horton, director of the Earth Observatory of Singapore. *—AP*

It also damaged nearly 1,16,192 hectares of land *PHOTO: PTI*

B'desh warns against communal unrest during Durga puja

DHAKA, 8 SEPT

Amid concerns of possible unrest during Durga puja, Bangladesh's interim government on Sunday warned potential troublemakers, pledging tough action against those disrupting communal harmony or targeting places of worship during the Hindu festival.

Durga puja will be celebrated from 9 to 13 October. "If anyone disrupts or harasses people at worship halls, we will not spare them. We will bring them under the law and ensure peace," Religious Affairs Adviser Dr AFM Khalid Hossain said during a visit to the Prematli Gaurang Bari Kalimandir in Godagari at Rajshahi district.

He urged members of the Hindu community to celebrate their festivals with enthusiasm and religious fervour and assured them that no one would be allowed to harm their temples. The minority Hindu population faced vandalism of their businesses and properties, and destruction of temples, during the student-led violence that erupted following the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. After unprecedented anti-government protests that peaked on August 5, Hasina resigned as prime minister and fled to India.

On Saturday at Rajshahi Circuit House, Hossain met with government officials and warned that miscreants might attempt to disrupt communal harmony ahead of Durga puja. *—PTI*

£190M CORRUPTION CASE

'Proof against Imran points towards military trial'

ISLAMABAD, 8 SEPT

PHOTO: PTI

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said that the evidence against jailed former prime minister Imran Khan points towards a military trial in the cases concerning the violence on 9 May last year, a media report said on Sunday.

Speaking to a private news channel on Saturday, Asif said that military trials had taken place before and will continue to do so in future as well, Geo News reported.

"Evidence against founder Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party founder (Imran Khan) points towards military trial," Asif said. His remarks come after 71-year-old Khan - fearing a military trial over his alleged involvement in the 9 May riots - filed a petition in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) to stop his potential trial in military courts.

Khan has moved an application in an accountability court seeking his acquittal in a 190 million pounds corruption case on the grounds of the amended anti-graft laws, which he had severely criticised earlier, a media report said on Sunday.

The 71-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder, who has been in prison since August last year, had challenged the amendments to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws which were introduced by the then Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government led by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in 2022. The amendments made several changes to the NAB laws, including reducing the term of the NAB chairman and prosecutor general to three years, limiting the bureau's jurisdiction to cases involving over Pakistani Rs 500 million and transferring all pending inquiries, investigations, and trials to the relevant authorities.

Pakistan's capital was tense on Sunday ahead of a planned rally by Khan's party to press the government for his release Khan has been in jail since his arrest on 5 August, 2023. *—PTI*

IMRAN'S PARTY HITS OUT AT JUI-F CHIEF

ISLAMABAD, 8 SEPT

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Saturday lashed out at Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman for 'legitimising' the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government after the latter's shift in the stance on the coalition government amid parliamentary collaboration with PTI. 'Naya Pakistan', Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government spokesperson Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif said, "We never needed [Maulana Fazl] support, neither in the past nor today." Saif said the JUI-F chief always selected the side where he saw his benefit. *—ANI*

Venezuela's Oppn leader leaves country for Spain

CARACAS, 8 SEPT

Former Venezuelan Opposition presidential candidate Edmundo González has fled into exile after being granted asylum in Spain, delivering a major blow to millions who placed their hopes in his upstart campaign to end two decades of single party rule.

The surprise departure of the man who Venezuela's Opposition and several foreign governments consider the legitimate winner of July's presidential race was announced late Saturday night by Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodríguez.

She said the government decided to grant González safe passage out of the country, just days after ordering his arrest, to help restore "the country's political peace and tranquility".

Neither González nor Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado have commented. González, a 75 year old former diplomat, was a last minute stand in when Machado was banned from running. Previously unknown to most Venezuelans, his campaign nonetheless rapidly ignited the hopes of millions of Venezuelans desperate for change after a decade long economic freefall.

Machado, who had won an open primary with 93 per cent of votes.

While President Nicolás Maduro was declared the winner of the July vote, most Western governments have yet to recognise his victory and are instead demanding that authorities publish a breakdown of votes. Meanwhile, tally sheets collected by Opposition volunteers from over two-thirds of the electronic voting machines indicate that González won by a more than 2-to-1 margin. *—AP*

India sends 1K MT rice to Malawi

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

India on Saturday sent 1,000 metric tonnes of rice as part of humanitarian aid to drought-hit Malawi. The Southeast African nation has been reeling under dry spells that caused widespread damage to crops and negatively affected food production. "Humanitarian assistance in solidarity with the people of Malawi. A consignment of 1000MT rice departed today for Malawi, to address the consequences of the severe drought caused by El Nino phenomenon," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on 'X'. In March, the government in Malawi declared a state of disaster following drought in 23 of the country's 28 districts. The dry spells have severely crippled the country's food supplies. *—PTI*

New iPhone to catapult tech into age of AI

WASHINGTON DC, 8 SEPT

Apple's ubiquitous iPhone is about to break new ground with a shift into artificial intelligence that will do everything from smartening up its frequently dim-witted assistant Siri to creating customised emojis on the fly. The new era will dawn Monday with the unveiling of the hotly anticipated iPhone 16 in a Cupertino, California, auditorium named after Apple co-founder Steve Jobs, who pulled out the first iPhone in 2007. Apple has sold billions of iPhones since then, helping to create about USD 3 trillion in shareholder wealth. The iPhone 16 is generating a bigger buzz because it is the first model to be tailored specifically for AI, a technology that is expected to trigger the biggest revolution. *—AP*

Gujarat to install solar systems on govt buildings

AHMEDABAD, 8 SEPT

Solar rooftop systems of 48 MW will be installed on various government buildings in Gujarat in the current financial year for which Rs 177 crore have been allocated, the state government said on Sunday. To tap into Gujarat's solar energy potential, the state Climate Change Department is actively installing such systems on government buildings, it said. In 2023-24, Gujarat generated a total of 24,765.3 million units (MU) of renewable energy, including 9,637 MU from solar, 14,201 MU from wind, 885.325 MU from hydro, 69 MU from small hydro, and 42 MU from biomass and bagasse, it said. "The state's vast solar potential has been effectively utilised through the establishment of solar parks and the deployment of rooftop solar installations for households. Projects such as Charanka Solar Park have positioned Gujarat as a leader in solar energy generation in India," the government said. Coastal wind farms have also played a crucial role in enhancing the state's renewable energy capacity, it said. *—PTI*

Domestic formulations biz to grow by 9-10%

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

The drug formulations market in India is expected to grow at a CAGR of 9-10 per cent over the next decade with Jan Aushadhi outlets anticipated to emerge as a much stronger player in the country, according to Glenmark Pharmaceuticals. The domestic formulations market is estimated to be at Rs 2 lakh crore, with a growth rate of 11 per cent over the past two decades. It is anticipated that these channels could collectively contribute 30 per cent to the market volume in ten years, it stated. The Jan Aushadhi initiative aims to enhance access to cost-effective, unbranded generics by scaling up to 25,000 franchise pharmacies by 2026, it said. *—PTI*

GST Council to discuss insurance premium tax cuts

The Council will address online gaming, rate rationalisation today

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

GST Council chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising state ministers will decide on whether to reduce the tax burden on health insurance from the current 18 per cent ***PHOTO: PTI***

The goods and services tax (GST) Council on Monday is expected to deliberate on a host of issues, including taxation of insurance premium, Group of Minister's suggestions on rate rationalisation, and a status report on online gaming, sources said.

Sources said the fitment committee, comprising Centre and state tax officials, will present a report on GST levied on life, health and reinsurance premiums and the revenue implications.

GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising state ministers, will decide on whether to reduce the tax burden on health insurance from the current 18 per cent or exempt certain categories of individuals, like senior citizens.

The deliberations will also happen with regard to the GST cut on life insurance premium.

In 2023-24, the Centre and states collected Rs 8,262.94 crore through GST on health insurance premium, while Rs 1,484.36 crore was collected on account of GST on health reinsurance premium.

The issue of taxation on insurance premium figured in Parliament discussions with opposition members demanding that health and life insurance premiums be exempt from GST. Even Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari wrote to Sitharaman on the issue.

With regard to online gaming, Centre and state tax officers will present a "status report" before the GST Council. The report would include GST revenue collection from the online gaming sector before and after 1 October, 2023.

Sources said the Council would deliberate on the status of taxation on the sector and any change in tax rates is unlikely.

- Sources said the fitment committee, comprising Centre and state tax officials, will present a report on GST levied on life, health and reinsurance premiums and the revenue implications

Besides, the Council is likely to be apprised about the ongoing drive against fake registration, the success of the drive and action taken against such entities. The total amount of suspected GST evasion would also be presented before the Council.

An amount of Rs 24,010 crore (state - Rs 8,805 crore + Centre - Rs 15,205 crore) of suspected tax evasion was detected during the special drive.

Also, the Council would approve notifications, including that of the amnesty scheme, announced in the last council meeting. The various amendments to GST law decided by the council in its previous meeting on 22 June were passed by Parliament last month vide Finance Act, 2024. *—PTI*

AFTER SUBSIDIARY IN KENYA

Adani floats China subsidiary for project services

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

Gautam Adani ***PHOTO: PTI***

Adani Group has formed a subsidiary in China to carry out business of providing supply chain solutions and project management services, according to a regulatory filing.

Adani Enterprises, the group's flagship firm, in the filing said a Singapore-based step-down subsidiary incorporated a wholly-owned subsidiary, Adani Energy Resources (Shanghai) Co. (AERCL), domiciled in Shanghai, China on 2 September.

"AERCL is incorporated to carry out business of providing supply chain solutions and project management services," it said without providing details.

The subsidiary was incorporated by Adani Global Pte (AGPTE), Singapore - a step-down subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL).

AEL houses the conglomerate's mining, roads, airports, data center and water infrastructure businesses.

The new unit comes days after AEL set up a subsidiary in Kenya, Airports Infrastructure PLC (AIP) "to take over, operate, maintain, develop, design, construct, upgrade, modernize and manage the airports" in the African nation. AEL had previously incorporated Global Airports Operator L.L.C., Abu Dhabi, to handle investment, acquisition, construction, operation, and maintenance of airports outside India. This unit has now set up the Kennian subsidiary.

Adani Group had reportedly submitted a proposal to the Kenyan government for investing in its main airport, the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) in Nairobi. It has proposed to invest USD 750 million for a new terminal and taxiway system by 2029 and an USD 92 million for improvements by 2035. *—PTI*

IPO buzz next week as 13 firms to raise ₹8,644 cr

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

PHOTO: PTI

The IPO market will be bustling next week, with four companies, including Bajaj Housing Finance, set to launch their initial share-sale to raise a total of Rs 8,390 crore.

Besides these four main-board IPOs, nine SMEs are preparing to debut with their maiden public issues next week, targeting to collect Rs 254 crore. Together, these 13 firms are looking to raise Rs 8,644 crore through IPO.

The four main-board IPOs include that of Bajaj Housing Finance, which is expected to mobilise around Rs 6,560 crore, P N Gadgil Jewellers (Rs 1,100 crore), Kross Ltd (Rs 500 crore), and Tolins Tyres (Rs 230 crore).

Of these, the initial share-sales of Bajaj Housing Finance, Kross Ltd, and Tolins Tyres will open for subscription on 9 September and conclude on 11 September, while that of PN Gadgil Jewellers will open on 10 September and close on 12 September.

Additionally, Arkade Developers is expected to float IPO on 16 September and Western Carriers India may also soon come out with its public issue.

So far this year, more than 50 main-board IPOs have been launched, along with one Follow-on Public Offering (FPO) by Vodafone Idea.

The public issue of Shree Tirupati Balajee Agro Trading Company is underway and IPOs of Baazar Style Retail and Gala Precision Engineering closed earlier this month.

Before that, IPOs of 10 firms, including Ola Electric Mobility and Brainbees Solutions Ltd, the parent firm of online e-commerce platform FirstCry, were concluded in August. *—PTI*

7% ANNUAL GROWTH

Power sector to rise 2.2 times to $280B by FY30: Report

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

The capacity of renewable energy is expected to grow rapidly ***PHOTO: ANI***

India's power generation and transmission sectors are poised for substantial growth, and as the country enters a phase of capex-driven GDP growth, the power intensity should rise, said Jefferies in its latest September report.

The report added that the power generation and transmission sectors are projected to rise 2.2 times to USD 280 billion between FY24 and FY30 compared to FY17-23.

The American firm noted that the power intensity will be essential to sustain the economy's growth, as the GDP is expanding at a rapid pace.

It further added that the power consumption is expected to grow more than 7 per cent annually.

The report anticipated that by FY30, India's total power generation capacity will need to increase from 442 GW in FY24 to 673 GW to avoid power shortages. This expansion will drive further investment in thermal power, which is expected to play a vital role in maintaining grid stability, the report added.

In line with traditional energy sources, the capacity of renewable energy will also grow rapidly.

The annual capacity addition for renewables is expected to increase 3.5 times between FY24 and FY27 compared to FY10-20, it estimated.

India has set the target to achieve 450 GW of renewable energy target by 2030.

The power transmission sector is also set for significant growth, with the bid pipeline increasing seven-fold over the past three years.

In February 2021, the pipeline was valued at less than Rs 150 billion, but as of now, Rs 1 trillion in projects are up for bidding. *—ANI*

PHOTO: PTI

MCAP OF EIGHT OF TOP-10 VALUED FIRMS ERODES BY ₹2 LAKH CR

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

The combined market valuation of eight of the top-10 most valued firms got eroded by Rs 2,01,699.77 crore last week, with Reliance Industries and Tata Consultancy Services emerging as the biggest laggards, in line with weak trends in equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark dropped 1,181.84 points, or 1.43 per cent.

The market valuation of Reliance Industries tumbled Rs 60,824.68 crore to Rs 19,82,282.42 crore.

The valuation of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) slumped Rs 34,136.66 crore to Rs 16,12,762.51 crore.

State Bank of India's valuation dropped Rs 29,495.84 crore to Rs 6,98,440.13 crore and that of Bharti Airtel diminished Rs 28,379.54 crore to Rs 8,76,207.58 crore.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of Infosys tanked Rs 17,061.44 crore to Rs 7,89,819.06 crore and that of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) eroded by Rs 16,381.74 crore to Rs 6,57,009.14 crore.

ICICI Bank's mcap declined Rs 15,169.76 crore to Rs 8,51,204.65 crore and that of ITC was down Rs 250.11 crore to Rs 6,27,337.65 crore.

However, Hindustan Unilever added Rs 14,179.78 crore, taking its market valuation to Rs 6,66,919.73 crore.

The mcap of HDFC Bank climbed Rs 3,735.35 crore to Rs 12,47,941.78 crore.

Reliance Industries remained the most-valued domestic firm followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Airtel, ICICI Bank, Infosys, State Bank of India, Hindustan Unilever, LIC, and ITC. *—PTI*

FPIs invest ₹11K cr in equities in Sept

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

PHOTO: PTI

Foreign investors infused nearly Rs 11,000 crore in domestic equities in the first week of the month owing to resilience of the Indian market and expectations of rate cut in the US.

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have been consistently buying equities since June. Before that, they had pulled out funds to the tune of Rs 34,252 crore in April-May.

The recent inflows are promising and could continue, supported by India's stable macroeconomic position. However, global factors like US interest rate and geopolitical scenario would continue to be the driving force, Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director- Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said.

According to the data with the depositories, FPIs put in a net investment of Rs 10,978 crore into equities this month (till 6 September).

FPIs have been on a buying spree in the Indian equity markets after the sentiments improved following comments from US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, who suggested that a rate cut might be on the horizon.

"The substantial net inflows this week can be attributed to enhanced speculation of the commencement of interest rate cut cycle soon, coupled with improved prospects for India's economic growth," Srivastava said.

Additionally, buying in few select large-cap stocks also contributed to the inflows, signalling foreign investors' eagerness to capitalize on the opportunities presented by the Indian equity markets, he said.

Also, a series of regulatory reforms aimed at streamlining the process for FII investments has further uplifted investor sentiment.

The consequent fall in the US 10-year bond yield to 3.73 per cent is positive for FPI inflows into emerging markets like India, VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said. *—PTI*

Ultra-luxury home sales remain strong in 2024

MUMBAI, 8 SEPT

PHOTO: ANI

Despite rising property prices, the sale of ultra-luxury home, those priced over Rs 40 crore, has continued to thrive in 2024, ANAROCK observed in a recent report.

As per the report, the average ticket price of homes priced above Rs 40 crore has witnessed a 2 per cent rise in the last 8 months--from Rs 1,00,208 per sq. ft. in 2023 to Rs 1,02,458 per sq ft in August.

According to the observation, a total of 25 such homes were sold across Mumbai, Hyderabad, Gurugram, and Bengaluru in the first eight months of the year, generating a collective sales value of approximately Rs 2,443 crore.

In contrast, cities like Pune, Chennai, and Kolkata witnessed no sales in this exclusive price bracket.

Of the 25 homes sold so far this year, 20 were high-rise apartments with a combined value of Rs 1,694 crore, while the remaining five sales consisted of bungalows, cumulatively worth about Rs 748.5 crore.

According to the data, since the pandemic, demand for ultra-luxury homes has surged, leading developers to increase the supply of such high-end properties. *—ANI*

CRISIL REPORT

Edu loans to be fastest-growing segment

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

Indian students studying abroad is estimated to have doubled in the past five years to around 13.4 lakh as of last fiscal ***PHOTO: ANI***

Education loans, primarily those to fund courses overseas, will continue to be among the fastest-growing segments for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) because of rising demand for higher education, said Crisil Ratings.

Their assets under management (AUM) is expected to grow at a healthy clip of 40-45 per cent to cross Rs 60,000 crore this fiscal, as per the rating agency.

By definition, AUM is the market value of the investments managed by the entities.

After robust growth of over 80 per cent and 70 per cent in fiscals 2023 and 2024, respectively, NBFCs' education loan assets AUM rose to Rs 43,000 crore as on 31 March.

On the asset quality front, metrics should remain stable despite country-specific concerns, a CRISIL Ratings analysis indicates, the report added.

"The number of Indian students studying abroad is estimated to have doubled in the past five years to around 13.4 lakh as of last fiscal. Only a tenth are being funded by these NBFCs, and even including education loans by banks, the financed quantum is not much higher. What that indicates is that a large portion of overseas education is being funded through alternative means -- informal financing, self-funding, or perhaps other forms of loans," said Ajit Velonie, Senior Director, CRISIL Ratings.

The portfolio of these NBFCs have been resilient so far based on strong credit underwriting. Their 90 plus days' past due (dpd), for education loans, was 0.2 per cent as on 31 March, whereas for private and public sector banks, gross non-performing assets were 2.0 per cent and 3.9 per cent, respectively. Peak quarterly delinquency on the vintage pool of 90+ dpd for NBFCs was also below 1 per cent. *—ANI*

Inflation, global trends to drive markets this week

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

PHOTO: PTI

Macroeconomic data announcements, global trends and trading activity of foreign investors would be the major driving factors for the equity markets this week, according to analysts.

"Crude oil prices has seen a meaningful correction over the few days with Brent crude now close to USD 73 per barrel. In India, investors will look forward to release of macro data this week, including CPI inflation. Globally, investors remain optimistic about the possibility of a rate cut by the US Fed and would keenly look forward to the US Fed meet scheduled later this month," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research, Kotak Securities, said.

Industrial production for July and inflation data for August will be announced on Thursday.

Last week, the BSE benchmark dropped 1,181.84 points, or 1.43 per cent, while the Nifty declined 383.75 points, or 1.52 per cent.

Falling for the third day running on Friday, the 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 1,017.23 points, or 1.24 per cent, to settle at 81,183.93. *—PTI*

PHOTO: X

Kiwis ready to defeat Afghanis in one-off test

GREATER NOIDA, 8 SEPT

New Zealand will aim to exploit Afghanistan's relative inexperience in red-ball cricket, in the one-off Test starting here from Monday, and gather momentum ahead of their upcoming World Test Championship challenges in the sub-continent. New Zealand's first-ever Test against Afghanistan will kick off a challenging couple of months for the Black Caps who play six long-format matches on the bounce in the subcontinent, something they haven't done in 40 years. Senior batter Kane Williamson has emphasised on the need to adapt to conditions and with three games under their belt, they would be well prepared for the marquee series against India next month. Afghanistan opener Ibrahim Zadran is a doubtful for the Test. *—PTI/ANI*

Ex-soccer head coach Stimac to get $400K from AIFF

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

Igor Stimac and the All India Football Federation (AIFF) have reached an agreement with the former men's national team head coach set to receive USD 400,000 (approximately Rs 3.36 crore) after tax as compensation for being terminated from the job. The AIFF sacked Stimac in June, terminating his contract exactly a year before it was to expire in the wake of the side's ouster from the second round of FIFA World Cup Qualifiers despite getting a relatively easy draw. The sacking was followed by a bitter war of words between Stimac and the AIFF with the Croat threatening to sue the federation if it didn't settle his dues within 10 days. However, the two parties have now reached an agreement.*—PTI*

PHOTO: X

MB extend keeper Kaith's contract till 2029

KOLKATA, 8 SEPT

Mohun Bagan on Sunday announced the contract extension their goalkeeper **Vishal Kaith** till 2029 ahead of the upcoming Indian Super League season. The 28-year-old had joined the Mariners in from Chennaiyin FC in 2022 and went on to bag the 'Golden Glove' winner for best goalkeeper in the ISL. Kaith also played a key role in Mohun Bagan winning the League Winners Shield last season to qualify for the AFC Champions League Two, which was earlier known as the AFC Cup. *—PTI*

2026 Asian Games include Yogasana as sport: OCA

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

India's ancient sport, yogasana was on Sunday included as a demonstration event at the 2026 Asian Games to be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. Yogasana's inclusion in the Asian Games calendar as a demonstration sport was unanimously passed at the 44th General Assembly of Olympic Council of Asia, where India's Randhir Singh was elected unopposed as the OCA president for a term of four years from 2024 till 2028. "Yoga will be a demonstration sport in Nagoya as the calendar for 2026 Asian Games has already been made and approved," Randhir said. "In 10 days' time we have managed to convince all members and include yoga." "There is risk of injuries in all other sports, but yoga is a sport which rejuvenates your body," he added.*—PTI*

We deserve same respect: Navdeep after winning gold

Navdeep says Devendra Jhajharia's advice helped him

PARIS, 8 SEPT

Navdeep Singh, who suffered from dwarfism, endured not just the usual rigours of training but cruel taunts from onlookers while growing up in his village in Haryana's Panipat district.

On Saturday, having turned those taunts into his biggest triumph on sport's grandest stage, the four feet four inches tall para athlete expressed his concerns with the indignities visited upon people whose bodies don't fit the usual moulds, and demanded "same respect" for them.

The 23-year-old Indian javelin thrower won an unparalleled gold in the F41 classification at the Paris Paralympic Games.

"Humein bhi utna darja milna chahiye, maine bhi desh ka naam roshan kiya hai (We deserve the same respect, I too have brought glory to the country," Navdeep said, flashing his gold medal in a video shared by the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI).

"My aim is to educate society that we also exist in this world and nobody should make fun of us, which is often the case. We also can make our country proud.

As the track and field competitions concluded at the Paris Games, Navdeep's golden throw in the final ensured the hallowed Stade de France echoed with the Indian national anthem. His personal best effort of 47.32m initially placed him in second position but it was upgraded to gold after the top finisher, Iran's Sadegh Beit Sayah, was disqualified for repeatedly displaying an objectionable flag. *—PTI*

The 23-year-old Indian javelin thrower won an unparalleled gold in the F41 classification *PHOTO: OLYMPICS*

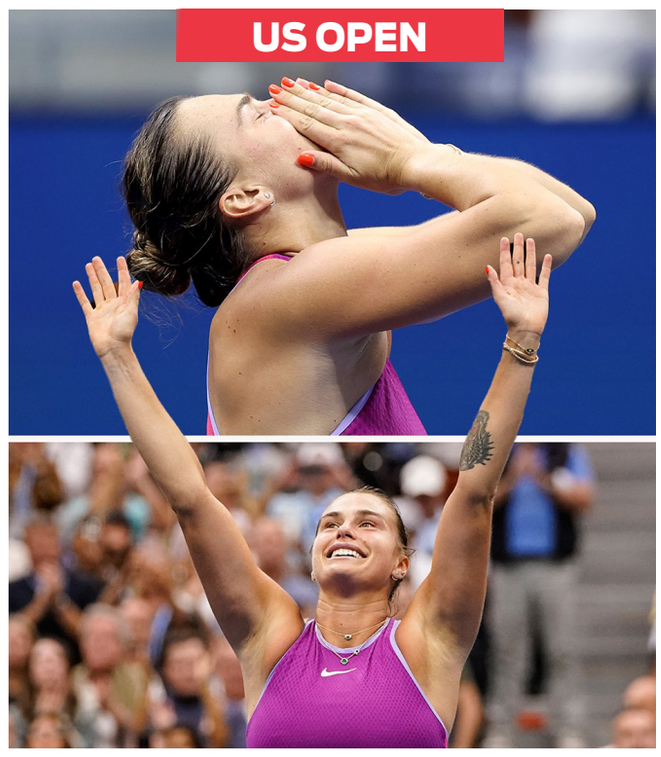
France wins gold in blind football

France defeated Argentina 3-2 on penalties under the lights of the Eiffel Tower for the gold medal in blind football on the penultimate day of the Paralympic Games. Frederic Villeroux scored the decisive spot kick to get the partisan home fans' party underway after the teams drew 1-1 in normal time on Saturday. "It felt like the script of a film," said Villeroux, who also made the breakthrough in the 12th minute when he rifled a shot inside the left post. France is the first team other than Brazil to win blind football at a Paralympics. *—AP*

Morocco's Fatima Ezzahra El Idrissi has smashed the world record in the women's marathon for runners with visual impairments on the last day of the Paralympic Games.
El Idrissi finished in 2 hours, 48 minutes and 36 seconds on Sunday, beating the previous record from Japan's Misato Michishita in Hofu City in December 2020 by nearly 6 minutes *PHOTO: MOROCCO GATE*

MEDAL TALLLY

COUNTRIES				
1. China	94	76	50	220
2. Britain	49	44	31	124
3. US	36	42	27	105
4. France	27	17	12	56
18. India	7	9	13	29



US OPEN

Aryna Sabalenka celebrates after winning her third grand slam title in US on Sunday *PHOTO: X/@USOPEN*

Sabalenka back on track after disrupted season

NEW YORK, 8 SEPT

Aryna Sabalenka won her first US Open title as she put the disappointment of last year's final behind her to hold off home hope Jessica Pegula.

At some point, Pegula will take stock of what she accomplished over the past month, including the run at the US Open that led to her first Grand Slam final. And, in all likelihood, she will be pleased. Proud, even.

That sort of perspective was difficult, though, in the immediate aftermath of a 7-5, 7-5 loss to Aryna Sabalenka at Flushing Meadows on Saturday night with the championship on the line.

"Everyone is like, Congrats! Amazing tournament!' I'm like, 'Eh, whatever," said Pegula, a 30-year-old American who had never before been past the quarterfinals at a major. "I think maybe once I decompress a little bit, I'm sure I will be a little bit more appreciative and see all of that."

She will rise from No. 6 to No. 3 in the WTA rankings on Monday, equaling her career high, after this post-Olympics stretch on North American hard courts that included a title in Toronto and runner-up finishes at both the Cincinnati Open and US Open.

> **After I lost my father, it's always been my goal to put our family name in the history of tennis**
>
> -Aryna Sabalenka, US Open winner

In all, boosted by improvements to her serve and her movement, Pegula went 15-2 in that time — with both defeats coming against No. 2 Sabalenka.

After losing to Gauff in last year's final, a tearful Sabalenka admitted she had struggled to deal with the crowd, later saying the noise was so loud it "blocked my ears". The atmosphere was no different this time around, with Pegula receiving the majority of the support from the packed 23,000-seater stadium. There were times when Sabalenka looked like the occasion would again get the better of her as she hit 34 unforced errors and five double faults. Once the type of player who failed to keep her emotions in check, she has taken active steps to strengthen her mentality, including working with a psychologist, to become one of the most consistent competitors on the WTA Tour. *—Agencies*

Randhir Singh is new chief of OCA

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

Veteran sports administrator Randhir Singh on Sunday became the first Indian to be elected as the president of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) during the 44th General Assembly of the continental body here.

A five-time Olympic shooter, Randhir was the lone eligible candidate for the OCA president's post. His tenure will run from 2024 till 2028, and his election was unanimous.

The 77-year-old Randhir has been the OCA acting president since 2021, filling in for Kuwait's Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, who was handed a 15-year ban from sports administration in May this year over ethics breaches. *—PTI*

'EXTREMELY POWERFUL'

Talents across country made Indian team stronger: Dravid

BENGALURU, 8 SEPT

The legendary Rahul Dravid on Sunday said that Indian cricket has evolved into an "extremely powerful" force, thanks to the growing talent pool that now extends to even the remotest corners of the country.

Dravid, who masterminded India's triumph in the T20 World Cup, said a strong club cricket culture has a lot to do with bucking the old trend of city cricketers dominating the passage to the national team.

"If you look at Indian cricket today, Indian cricket is extremely strong, it's extremely powerful. One of the big reasons for that is that talent comes from everywhere, from all over the country," said Dravid during the 50th year celebration of Mount Joy Cricket Club.

Rahul Dravid *PHOTO: X*

"But today I think you see in Indian cricket that boys are coming from everywhere," he added.

"You just look at the standard of the Ranji Trophy. In the old days when you played in the South Zone, other than playing Hyderabad or Tamil Nadu, I think it is fair to say, without being disrespectful, that a lot of other teams you could take it not for granted but you could certainly take it a little bit more lightly.

Hailing the club cricket structure in the country, particularly in Karnataka, Dravid said the system has allowed the sport to remain accessible to all. *—PTI*

Canada beat US in post nation for 1st time since 1957, winning 2-1

KANSAS CITY, 8 SEPT

Hoping to show its first-round exit at the Copa America was a fluke, the United States instead displayed an alarming lack of intensity and an abundant defensive disarray that resulted in its first home loss to Canada since 1957.

Jacob Shaffelburg and Jonathan David scored off defensive misplays, and Canada dominated 2-1 in a friendly on Saturday for just its second win over the Americans in 27 matches over 99 years on US soil. While Jesse Marsch, Canada's American-born coach, glowed following a win over a team that bypassed him for its coaching opening last year, interim US coach Mikey Varas rebuked himself and his players.

"The mentality is on the players. Sorry, they know it," Varas said. "That mentality to fight and to run and to sacrifice, I can't do that for them. I can't do that for them. That's on them." Coming off defeats to Panama and Uruguay at the Copa America, the US has lost three straight games for the first time since 2015 against Brazil, Mexico and Costa Rica. A defeat to New Zealand on Tuesday at Cincinnati would result in the Americans' first four-game losing streak since 2007.

"All over the park today, our mentality just wasn't quite there," defender Chris Richards said. Varas moved up from assistant after Gregg Berhalter was fired following the Copa America flop. The US Soccer Federation has been trying to reach an agreement for Mauricio Pochettino to become the team's 10th coach in 14 years but has not commented on the talks, which began in mid-August. *—AP*

Canadian players celebrate after scoring the second goal against US on Sunday *PHOTO: X/@CANMNT_OFFICIAL*

World Boxing may introduce AI in scoring system: Prez

NEW DELHI, 8 SEPT

World Boxing president Boris van der Vorst is determined to transform the sport by exploring the use of modern technology, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), to make the scoring system more objective and transparent, once the breakaway body receives the official recognition from the IOC.

The current scoring system in boxing is a subjective, complex and controversial, with many boxers feeling robbed by dubious decisions. There have been multiple changes over the decade but the system remains opaque.

The most recent controversy arose at the Paris Olympics when India's Nishant Dev lost in the men's 71kg quarterfinals, despite seemingly dominating the contest.

The IOC had stripped the IBA of Olympic recognition over "financial transparency and governance" last year. *—PTI*

England all-rounder Ali retires from int'l cricket

LONDON, 8 SEPT

England allrounder Moeen Ali has announced his retirement from international cricket, continuing the changing of the guard in the English game that has also seen fast-bowling greats Stuart Broad and Jimmy Anderson quit the sport over the past year.

The 37-year-old Ali, who was overlooked for the upcoming white-ball series against Australia, said in an interview with British newspaper the Daily Mail that it was "time for the next generation." "It felt the time was right. I've done my part," said Ali, who played 68 tests, 138 one-day internationals and 92 Twenty20 internationals for England — winning the World Cup in both of the shorter forms. Ali, who was a role model for British Muslims, said he still feels like he can compete at the highest level, but was "trying to be realistic" about his international future.

Matthew Mott was fired as head coach of England's limited-overs teams last month after disappointing title defenses in the ODI and T20 World Cups and the appetite for change continued with the removal from the squad of Ali and Jonny Bairstow — two senior players sharing over 400 caps.

Moeen Ali *PHOTO: ECB*

"He would do anything the team required, probably to the hindrance of his career — he batted from No. 1 to No. 8," former England captain Alastair Cook said. "He was one of the great teammates."

Broad described Ali as "one of my favorite ever teammates". *—AP*

Duleep Trophy: India B beat India A by 76 runs

BENGALURU, 8 SEPT

KL Rahul's gumption, which helped him pile a patient fifty, found no resonance among his colleagues as India B pacers led by Yash Dayal pushed India A to a 76-run defeat on the fourth and final day of their Duleep Trophy match here on Sunday.

Chasing 275, India A were bundled out for 198 in their second innings as left-arm seamer Dayal (3/50), with able support from his colleagues Mukesh Kumar (2/50) and Navdeep Saini (2/41), led the India B attack.

Rahul top-scored for 'A' with a 51.

In the first session of the day, India B made 184 all out in their second essay to muster a handy overall lead of 274. The India A chase began on a shaky note as Mayank Agarwal departed in the second over itself, wafting Dayal away from his body to Nitish Kumar Reddy, who made a wonderful diving catch at second slip.

Parag took on the bowlers and pacer Mukesh bore the brunt of his aggression, getting smoked for two sixes and the second maximum touched the roof of the Chinnaswamy Stadium over the mid-wicket region. *—PTI*

EASY WIN

India beat China 3-0 in Asian C'pions Trophy

HULUNBUIR, 8 SEPT

The Indian men's hockey team launched its title defence with a commanding 3-0 win over hosts China in the Asian Champions Trophy here on Sunday.

Sukhjeet Singh (14th minute), Uttam, Singh (27th) and Abhishek (32nd) were the goal-scorer for India, while China drew a blank.

Coming into the tournament after securing a second successive bronze at the Olympics, India looked the more enterprising side as they grabbed the opportunities up front and was rock solid in defence to emerge winners. Sukhjeet put India ahead at the stroke of the first quarter before Uttam Singh doubled the lead just three minutes before the end of the second quarter as India went 2-0 up at the half time.

Amit Rohidas celebrates with Harmanpreet Singh celebrate after scoring the thrid goal against China on Sunday *PHOTO: PTI*

Just two minutes after resumption, Abhishek found the back of the net with a spectacular reverse hit.

India will play Japan in their second pool one match on Monday. Last year, India won the tournament at home, making them the only team to bag four titles in the history of the event. In other matches, Malaysia held Pakistan 2-2 in a high-voltage contest, while Japan and Korea engaged in a goal-fest before settling for a 5-5 draw.

India were visibly alert in the second quarter with Abhishek unleashing an early shot that was saved by the Chinese goalkeeper Caiyu Wang. *—PTI*